Fulham Chronicle

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BABS TO LEAD LONDON'S TEAM OF VOLUNTEER AMBASSADORS

COCKNEY treasure Dame Barbara Windsor has been chosen by London Mayor Sadiq Khan to lead a team of volunteer ambassadors who are greeting visitors to the capital from around the world.

Dame Barbara has agreed to lead Team London's 550 "Ambassadors" who are out and about in the capital greeting visitors from around the world and providing them with information and local knowledge.

Throughout the summer the Team London Ambassadors, recognisable in their distinctive magenta uniforms, are providing maps, information and local knowledge from purpose-built 'welcome pods' stationed in a number of key tourist hotspots. Over the summer they will volunteer 15,000 hours over 4,000 shifts, helping more than 250,000 visitors.

Dame Barbara joined the Ambassadors in Trafalgar Square to help spread the Mayor's message that London is "open for all".

SEE PAGE 8

Police probe after horror car crash

CAR BURST INTO FLAMES AFTER CHASE

BY JACK DIXON
jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

THE police watchdog has launched an investigation after a young woman was killed in a horror crash in Fulham when her car burst into flames during a police chase.

Acacia Smith, 25, died after officers were called to reports of a drone being flown near Wandsworth Prison.

Police had followed a car that was seen leaving the scene before it crashed into a wall in Ashcombe Street.

The driver, Ms Smith's boyfriend Craig Kearney, also 25, was rushed to hospital in a critical condition.

This week the Independent Police Complaints Commission is investigating the officers' actions prior to the crash, which happened in the early hours of last Tuesday morning (August 9). The Met Police's Directorate of Professional Standards have also been informed.

IPCC investigators attended the scene of the collision to oversee the evidence-gathering process and officers provided accounts of their involvement.

It says local CCTV and information from the police car incident data recorders is being gathered and will be analysed as the investigation progresses.

Ms Smith, who was known as Caysha, was from Southall but lived in the Acton area and worked as a nursery nurse, it emerged last week. She was named by friends who paid tribute to her on social media.

Kamara Rattrey wrote on Facebook: "We had so many plans for our future. It was supposed to be me and you until the end growing old together. I'm so angry that our time together has been cut short.

Tom Milsom said: "A young woman has died in terrible circumstances and our thoughts remain with her family, friends and all of those affected by this tragedy.

"Our investigation will examine police actions prior to the collision to determine whether appropriate policies and procedures were followed."

Ravenscourt Park throbbed to the sound of drumming, one of the features at an afternoon of fun and games organised by Fulham & Hammersmith Council.

SEE PAGE 4

Food bank needs support

Food bank manager Daphine Aikens is predicting a spike in demand this summer

HAMMERSMITH and Fulham food bank is appealing for support to help struggling families this summer.

Organisers warn that the lack of free school meals during the summer holidays can pile the pressure on parents who already find it difficult to put food on the table.

The food bank provides emergency packages that can help to keep families going for up to three days at a time.

Food bank manager Daphine Aikens said volunteers were preparing for a "summer spike" in demand.

"Many families rely on a daily free school meal and

■ TURN TO PAGE 3

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Singer songwriter Alison Goldfrapp has turned photographer. This is one of her images of Laura Mvula - CAPITAL NIGHTS 12

Ade and Vic inspire elderly with music from around the world

BY JACK DIXON
jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

A MUSICAL duo who found inspiration in the elderly have teamed up to bring the sounds of Africa to Hammersmith and Fulham.

Adeyinka Akinwande and Vicknesh Visvanathan hope to brighten the lives of the borough's older residents as part of a unique community project.

Adeyinka, 35, grew up in Lagos, Nigeria, and has been performing in the African 'Yoruba Song' style for many years.

Working for a private care company, he enjoyed singing to his clients during his routine visits.

But he was inspired to turn the idea into a community service after meeting rapper Vicknesh, 46, at the Bush Theatre earlier this year.

The pair worked together on the theatre's neighbourhood project and teamed up to perform at the Hammersmith and Fulham ArtsFest in June.

Now they want to share their music with elderly people across the borough by touring care homes, community centres and hospitals.

Adeyinka, who has worked as a carer in Hammersmith and Fulham for the last eight years, said he also hoped to change perceptions about his profession.

"The stereotype that has been built about carers is that they steal people's money and abuse them. I want to change that," he said.

"Our clients should see us as friends and confidantes who appreciate their input in society.

"Any time I go into their homes I want to try as much as possible to please them. I want to give them a smile even if they are not happy at that moment. You can only please the spirit, you cannot please the flesh."

Vicknesh, who suffers from schizophrenia, has been rapping for the last 15 years and has recorded his music at two London studios designed specifically for people with mental health problems.

Adeyinka (left) and Vicknesh perform in Lyric Square, Hammersmith

"Every time I perform I feel fulfilled. It just fills you up. I always say: do not chase the money or the fame, just appreciate the fact that you are being heard," he said.

"I am not ashamed to say that I have struggled with mental health problems and I have found ways to cope with them through music."

The pair performed for the first time at the Elgin Close Resource Centre earlier this year before staging a show at Askew Road Library.

Adeyinka performs poetry while playing the west African sekere instrument while Vicknesh raps his own lyrics – but the duo have also built an element of theatre into their performance to keep audiences entertained.

They say they do not want to turn the project into a money-making venture – only to share their music and offer a hand of friendship to the borough's older residents, many of whom have no relatives and suffer from loneliness.

"The people I look after, many of them have led bubbly, busy lives and suddenly something has happened to them and they cannot go out any more," Adeyinka added.

"Some of them see me as the closest person to them. They throw their joy at me when they are happy and when they are in a low mood they throw their anger at me.

"They used to be managers and do all sorts of different jobs but now they just sit and watch TV.

"We should not look down on them, we should involve them in things. I have one guy who is always singing even though he is sick and cannot stand properly.

"I do not want caring to be seen as just cleaning people's homes and tidying up their bedroom. I want to help people feel that there is life."

Vicknesh, who performs under the name 'Spiritual Don', said he enjoyed the "thrill" of performing to an audience of people who might not be familiar with his style of music.

"People at that time of life are approaching the end but still want to be appreciated. Some of them are 80 or 90 – we do not know what they have been through," Vic added.

"There is a fear in all of us about who is going to be there to look after us when we get old. We are becoming a selfish society."

For more information about Ade Playhouse and D Comrades, call Adeyinka on 07735868689 or email adeplayhouse@gmail.com

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MI5 recruiting

MI5 is recruiting young Londoners to become trainee Miss Moneypennys.

School leavers are being targeted in a drive to sign up apprentices to the intelligence service.

New recruits will work with MI5, MI6 and GCHQ to keep the country safe from terrorism and foreign spies.

Apprenticeship roles include language analysts, tech operatives, security officers and drivers.

It follows the deployment of 600 extra armed forces on the streets of London to combat lone wolf attackers and large-scale terrorist plots.

Tributes are paid to fallen policemen on anniversary of London's worst crime

BY JACK DIXON
jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

POLICE chiefs stood side by side with the families, friends and former colleagues of the three officers who were gunned down on the streets of Shepherd's Bush 50 years ago, as community leaders drew breath to remember the "worst crime London has known".

A memorial service was held in Braybrook Street last week - half a century on from the callous murder of Detective Sergeant Christopher Head, Detective Constable David Wombwell and PC Geoffrey Fox.

Met bosses paid tribute to the "ultimate sacrifice" made by the three officers in the line of duty and pledged never to forget their brave service.

Detective Sergeant Head and Detective Constable Wombwell had approached a van parked near Wormwood Scrubs Prison while on plainclothes duty in a police 'Q car' on the afternoon of August 12 1966.

In the course of questioning three men, the officers were shot at point blank range by the infamous killer Harry Roberts. PC Fox was gunneddown.

It transpired that Roberts, Duddy and a third man, John Witney, had been plotting an armed robbery when the officers stopped them for questioning.

The triple murder, which was branded the 'Massacre of Braybrook Street', triggered a manhunt for Roberts, who evaded capture by hiding out in Thorley Wood, Hertfordshire.

Duddy and Witney were rounded up and arrested early on in the investigation - but it took 96 days to track down arch villain Roberts, who was found sleeping rough in a barn.

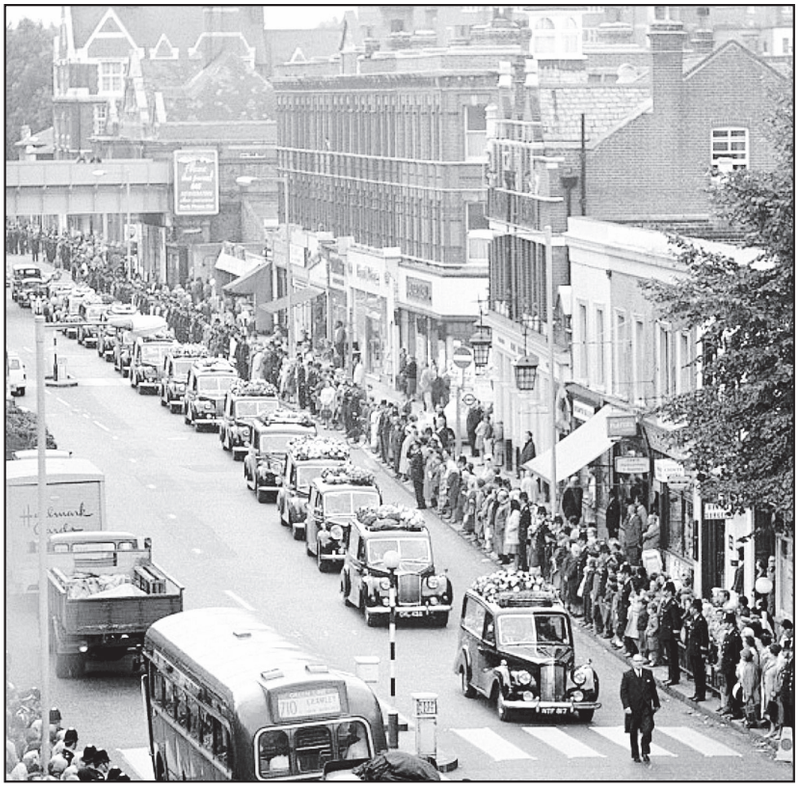
Chief Superintendent Gideon Springer, borough commander for Hammersmith and Fulham, paid tribute to the officers ahead of the memorial service last week.

He said: "It is only right and proper that we gather together on this day to remember Detective Sergeant Christopher Head, Detective Constable David Wombwell and Police Constable Geoffrey Fox, and the ultimate sacrifice that they made in protecting the people of London. They are gone but never forgotten."

Roberts was convicted of all three murders and sentenced to life imprisonment but was controversially released last year at the age of 78.

It sparked calls for a reassessment of the life term sentence and a string of complaints that Roberts should never have been released.

Deborah Barnes, of Barnes & Sons funeral directors in Shepherd's Bush, organised a window display to commemorate the anniversary last week.



The funeral procession in Uxbridge Road, 1966

The company managed the officers' funerals in 1966, which were followed by a procession down Uxbridge Road as hundreds of mourners lined both sides of the street.

Mrs Barnes, 57, said the crime had "shocked the nation" and insisted that "life should mean life".

Family members, former colleagues and serving officers were among those who gathered in Braybrook Street on Friday (August 12) to commemorate the fallen officers.

The service was held at 3pm – 50 years to the minute after they were murdered in cold blood.

Speaking on Friday, Craig Mackey, Deputy Commissioner of the Met Police, said: "Today's commemoration of the tragic events from 50 years ago serves as a reminder to us all of the grave dangers police officers face as they go about serving the public.

"Today we stand with the families of the three officers and join them in remembering and honouring them for their duty. The Metropolitan Police will never forget the sacrifice they made."

THE MAN WHO WATCHED OVER THE MEMORIAL FOR 27 YEARS

WHILE last week's service was attended by family, friends and colleagues of the fallen officers, there was one man conspicuous by his absence.

Reg Collins (pictured), who died in September last year just a few days after the 49th anniversary of the shootings, watched over the memorial for 27 years from his home in Braybrook Street.

Each year on the anniversary of the murders, Mr Collins could be seen standing by his front gate and quietly paying his respects to the three officers who lost their lives.

He was not related to the victims and had no connections to the police but was known to serving officers as 'the man with the white hair'.

Mr Collins took it upon himself to tend to the memorial stone that was laid in Braybrook Street in 1988, removing weeds and cleaning it regularly.

Officers from Hammersmith and Fulham Police attended Mr Collins' funeral last year, after he died on his 81st birthday.

Evelyn Hazel, Mr Collins' daughter, said: "Dad would sit in his chair by the window which overlooked the memorial stone and keep an eye on it.

"He would clean it up when it got dirty and remove the dead flowers and wreathes that had withered away.

"One day he saw a young boy sitting on the stone. He was up out of his chair through the front door telling the boy he had better move."

Window display at Barnes & Sons funeral directors, Uxbridge Road

Appeal for more food for families

■ FROM PAGE ONE

]can really struggle without them during the long summer break," she said.

"Parents sacrifice their own food for their children and sometimes even that is not enough."

The charity is running a number of projects over the summer to provide additional support to struggling families.

Holiday clubs for children aged three to 11 are being run twice a week while special courses designed to give people tips on "eating well and spending less" have been arranged.

The food bank already runs coffee mornings twice a week where visitors can use computer facilities to search for jobs or improve their CV, and staff from the Citizens Advice Bureau are also working with clients to help them out of debt.

Volunteers are appealing for donations of long-life juice, tinned fruit and vegetables, instant mash, powdered milk and jars of pasta sauce, which can be left at any of the food bank collection points across the borough.Only people who have been specifically referred to the charity by GPs and other service providers can claim a food package.

Laptops for the homeless

KIND-hearted Londoners are used to handing over their loose change to the homeless – but a charity initiative is now encouraging people to take their generosity to new levels.

A social enterprise is asking people in Hammersmith and Fulham to donate their unwanted computers to those less fortunate than themselves.

The Laptops for Homeless Support project aims to help vulnerable people living on the streets log back in to society.

It says homeless people are being blocked from escaping poverty because of a lack of access to technology.

SocialBox.biz, the organisation behind the scheme, says millions of computers that could provide a lifeline for the homeless are being trashed every year.

"Society is becoming ever more dependent on computerised technologies but thousands of people are still without access to this vital resource, and as a consequence, living in social and digital exclusion here in London," said chairman Peter Paduh.

Peter Gibbs, a Thames Reach London client who has benefited from the Laptops for Homeless Support initiative

"Our priority is to turn them into a valuable resource for our local community. We take those computers no longer needed, arrange for them to be refurbished and give some of them to organisations that help those who need them most gain access to information technology and search for employment."

A laptop collection site has been opened at Hammersmith Library in Shepherd's Bush Road and is one of several across London that are up and running.

SocialBox is now working with the Thames Reach London charity to encourage people living in the borough not to throw away their old equipment.

Jeremy Swain, chief executive of Thames Reach London, said: "These computers will give the homeless and marginalised people who receive them the opportunity to communicate with friends and relatives, develop new interests and improve access to advice to improve their skills and employment prospects.

"Our employment academy is helping thousands of unemployed and economically disadvantaged people in the capital, and the partnership with SocialBox will enable us to help even more people."

Arts and crafts at the palace

Fulham Palace is running a range of arts and crafts activities designed to keep children entertained over the summer holidays.

The venue is running a creative art marquee on Wednesday afternoons throughout August, with classes in printmaking, food design and 3D construction.

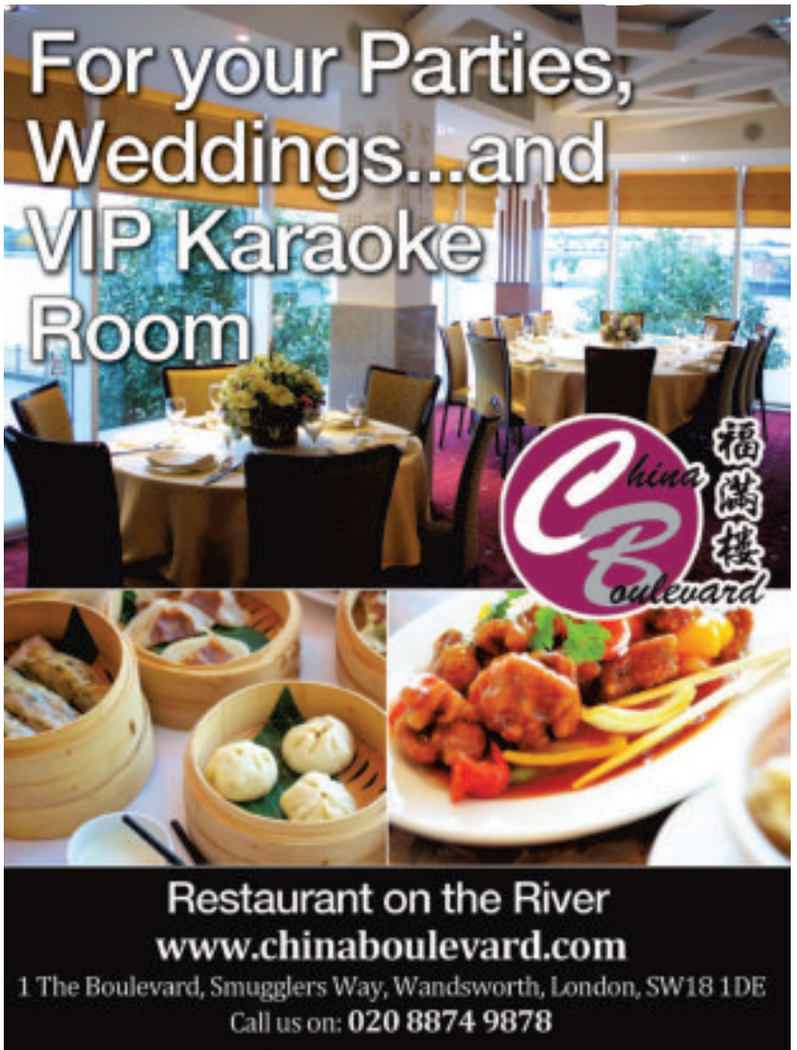
For more information about the events taking place at Fulham Palace this summer, visit www.fulhampalace.org

Family fun in the park

THE summer holidays were in full swing as children from all over Hammersmith and Fulham enjoyed an afternoon of fun and games at Ravenscourt Park.

Activities and attractions were laid on as part of a day of family entertainment organised by Hammersmith and Fulham council.

Displays of jump-rope skipping by the JumpLDN team and 'urban Olympics' from the London Sport Trust were among the performances during the day, as youngsters were also treated to fairground rides and food and drink stalls.



Park is transformed into heart of the community

A COMMUNITY project to turn around a neglected Hammersmith park has helped reduce anti-social behaviour and made people "feel safer", according to the man behind a hard-working local gardening group.

Sean Adamson, who rallied his neighbours to help clean up Marcus Garvey Park, said the revitalised green space was now a place for the whole community to be proud of.

A series of improvements, led by the Friends of Marcus Garvey Park, have been made to the area over the last few years.

Mr Adamson, the group's chairman, began by replanting the park's fading flowerbeds.

But with a little help from volunteers at the Hammersmith Community Gardens Association, he was soon working on more ambitious plans for the area.

A grant award enabled the group to create a dedicated wildlife space for schoolchildren last year and the walls surrounding the park have been covered with a bee-themed mural designed by local artist Tania Beaumont.

The group has also made and installed its own bird boxes to encourage winged visitors into the park.

Mr Adamson, who is originally from Australia, said the area had been transformed from "somewhere that you keep your head down" to the heart of the community.

"It has been good to show people that you actually can change things," he said.

"It was strange when I first came to London seven years ago as people seemed to think they had no control or influence on the environment around them.

"The Friends have had a really positive effect. People talk to each other now."

Combined with the introduction of new CCTV cameras in the park funded by Hammersmith and Fulham council, the group's gardening schemes have led to a significant crackdown on anti-social behaviour and plant thefts in the area.

"People feel safer in the park and can actually sit down on the grass now - before it was basically a minefield of dogs' mess," Mr Adamson added.

"I think some people have made new friends and it has clearly improved relationships with the local schools.

"The Friends have helped turn Marcus Garvey Park into a space that is valued by the community, rather than somewhere that you keep your head down and is just a shortcut to somewhere else."

Last month 11 parks in Hammersmith and Fulham were named among the nation's most beautiful green spaces.

Ravenscourt Park, Hammersmith Park, Margravine Cemetery and St Peter's Square were among those to be awarded the prestigious Green Flag status by the Keep Britain Tidy campaign.

The award recognised the park's high standards of cleanliness, mix of plantlife and range of visitor facilities after judges visited hundreds of green spaces earlier this year.

Sean Adamson, chairman of Friends of Marcus Garvey Park

Residents win campaign for new playpark

BY JACK DIXON
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RESIDENTS on a Hammersmith estate stepped back in time for a 1950s themed party to celebrate the opening of a new playground.

Children enjoyed games and activities and kitted themselves out in fancy dress as the revamped play area was unveiled on the Peabody estate off Fulham Palace Road.

The estate's yard had been left derelict since 2008 but a campaign by the local tenants' association encouraged Peabody to step in.

The housing association coughed up cash from its environmental improvement budget to fund the playground, which features a swing, slide and other activities for the estate's children.

Victoria, a mother-of-two who lives on the estate, said she was delighted with the new play area.

"I have a 15-year-old and a two-year-old," she said. "The 15-year-old grew up on the estate without a play space so I am pleased my youngest has somewhere local to play. My two-year-old has been so excited she has been asking me every day when it is opening."

The final design for the playground was drawn up following a competition asking residents for their ideas.

Peabody funded the revamp with support from the London Marathon Charity Trust.

Debbie Peek, 96, one of the estate's oldest residents, said: "I was initially opposed to the project but now, seeing how beautiful it turned out to be and the smiles on the faces of the children, I am happy the residents' association and Peabody made it happen. I am very pleased for the children."

Residents and members of the tenants' association officially open the new playground and, below, the fun begins

New homes plan for ex-service personnel

FULHAM veterans' charity Stoll has announced plans to build 100 new homes for ex-service personnel and their families.

Building work will begin on 34 new homes in Aldershot later this year, with further properties planned in Wiltshire and east London.

Stoll is breaking new ground in its 100th anniversary year in a bid to tackle the social housing shortage for war veterans.

The charity has housed thousands of ex-servicemen and women since 1916 and also provides health and well-being support to disabled or otherwise vulnerable veterans.

Stoll chairman Andy Fryer, a former servicemen who held the role of air commodore during his 33-year stint in the RAF, said: "We are kick-starting our centenary celebrations with this bold and ambitious announcement to build 100 new homes. With more resources, we can help even more veterans.

Stoll chief executive Andy Fryer

"We have provided housing and support for 100 years – we now need people's support to help us build 100 new homes for the next generation of armed forces personnel."

Stoll is working with Riverside and Haig Housing as part of the Aldershot initiative and has also secured funding from the Homes and Communities Agency, the Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation and the Wolfsdon Foundation to get the build started.

It follows new research suggesting veterans, particularly those without families, are facing a tough task to access affordable housing.

Deborah Quilgars, from the Centre for Housing Policy at the University of York, said: "Our research highlights the difficulties faced by single veterans with health and other support needs in finding affordable housing, especially in garrison towns and metropolitan areas.

"There is a need for better supported housing pathways for veterans and good quality housing alongside floating support services to prevent further homelessness."

Awards for health service heroes

THE exceptional achievements of health service heroes were recognised at a special awards night.

Former Crimewatch presenter Nick Ross hosted the event, which celebrated the efforts of NHS staff at the Imperial College Healthcare Trust.

The trust is responsible for running the borough's two major hospitals - Hammersmith Hospital in Shepherd's Bush and Charing Cross Hospital in Hammersmith.

Hundreds of staff were nominated for the 'Make a Difference' awards, which took place at the Hilton Metropole in Edgware Road.

Tracey Batten, the trust's chief executive, said: "I regularly witness the fantastic work our staff do across all our services and I am immensely proud that they are consistently seen by our patients as caring and compassionate.

Imperial College NHS Trust health award winners

"Everyone at the trust plays a full part in helping all of the patients that we serve. We do this by harnessing the amazing expertise, experience and enthusiasm of all of our 10,000 staff and volunteers.

"All of them have demonstrated that our values of kind, expert, collaborative and aspirational, are central to everything we do. I would like to congratulate them on their outstanding efforts."

Haemotology expert Louise Davies was named Individual of the Year for her contribution to the field, while Stella Tysall received the Volunteer of the Year prize.

Points of view

LETTERS

Very best of standards at Chelsea pool

IT would be a great shame if users of a fantastic community swimming pool were put off by lurid headlines that bear little scrutiny (Parents' fears over 'pool for perverts' at sports centre).

I want us to provide the very best standards for everyone who uses Chelsea Sports Centre, not just the equipment and pool but also the areas where swimmers change.

Needless to say we would never approve a design that exposed anyone, much less children, to unwanted attention. Indeed, we are providing a number of dedicated family changing cubicles in addition to the general cubicles.

So what have we done? Well we began by asking pool users what they thought of our plans for the pool changing rooms. I am pleased to say that many supported our idea.

In fact, we have based a number of the changes to the new layout on comments received from regular swimmers. Indeed, many of the schools and clubs (who make up 75 per cent of the users) told us that for their pupils to have to change in a corner of the changing rooms where other adults were also changing was not ideal.

In addition, I have been approached by mothers who have sons (who change in the ladies' changing rooms) and fathers who have daughters (who have to change in the men's changing rooms) who are very uncomfortable with the current arrangement – 'family changing rooms' will prevent this problem.

Given this I'm surprised at Nicola Philippi's claim that most users who swim at Chelsea Sports Centre are appalled by our plans as she has no evidence to support it.

The new layout, which is used widely across the country, is designed to make better use of the space, something we need to do on a tight site like the Chelsea Sports Centre. It will also help reduce running costs.

The claim in your article that there will be fewer showers is plain wrong, in fact there will be more showers in the new changing areas.

Councillor Tim Ahern
Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea
Cabinet Member for Leisure

BY SYED KAMALL

ONE of the wonderful things about being a MEP for the whole of London is the chance it gives me to meet and work with local community projects right across our great city. There must be thousands of small projects or charities helping people in local communities across all of London's boroughs.

These projects don't have the budgets of the larger international NGOs that might employ well-paid CEOs and press officers or send out hawkers onto your local high street to pressurise people into making regular donations.

Neither do they spend their money on campaigns calling for government to give them more money. Instead, they often work on much smaller budgets relying on volunteers to raise funds and to help those in need in their local communities.

While some may receive some funds from local or national government, their message is often one of helping local people to help themselves. Some have even told me that they don't necessarily need the state - they just need someone to give them a bit of help, a few pounds, some advice, equipment, some premises.

For example, the New Addington Jobs Club, near my office in Croydon, has helped to find jobs for over 100 local people after they felt that the local Job Centre had given up on them.

Regenerate on the Roehampton Estate is another inspiration. Andy Smith who founded the project realised that many ex-offenders and gang members were entrepreneurs, but were sadly operating outside the law.

He started the Feel Good Bakery to help those who used to sell drugs turn their skills to selling sandwiches. One of their slogans is 'From dope dealers to hope dealers'.

As this newspaper has reported fully, in Southall Dr Shamender Talwar and Anna Prior run the Unity of Faiths Foundation (TUFF) which uses the power of football (TUFF FC) to create a safe space for young people vulnerable to being recruited by gangs or terrorists.

Helping communities help themselves - Syed Kamall

At TUFF FC, I met a young lady who told me how she almost went to Syria after being recruited via Snapchat.

Dr Talwar made a few calls and gave her the choice of going through the gate of the airport to Syria, or the gates of the Stamford Bridge, since she was a Chelsea supporter.

When she arrived at the stadium she was so overcome that she knelt down to kiss the pitch, and now through her experience encourages others not to be recruited into terrorism. TUFF believes that one of the best ways to counter terrorism is to prevent people from becoming terrorists.

Politicians at all levels from all parties - who are at the heart of different networks - are so well-paced to help community enterprises like these and put people together. Whether it is funders, people with time, those with equipment or people with a building.

The New Addington jobs club needed second-hand computers to help more people search for jobs online, so I wrote an appeal letter to local papers. Regenerate asked me to introduce them to companies who might want to buy their sandwiches or use their catering services for corporate events. Using my role as the leader of the third largest of the eight political groups in the European Parliament, I have introduced TUFF to politicians across the UK and in other countries looking for ideas on how to tackle radicalisation. Tree Shepherd, a project in Lambeth that helps unemployed people start their own business have asked me to contact local businesses on their behalf.

Fortunately, politicians across the political spectrum are starting to re-embrace community-led solutions to tackling social breakdown and poverty.

My cooperative Socialist friends tell me that the political Left - in recent years - has placed too much emphasis on tackling poverty through trickle-down state solutions, whether from Brussels, Westminster, Whitehall or the local town hall, rather than recalling their proud history of how mutual societies and local projects used to help local people to help themselves.

Meanwhile, too many on the political Right talk about rolling back the state, but forget that while there are many civil society groups and community organisations that will engage if we give them the chance, many people are not the 'rational economic agents' we read about in economics text books and will need help, advice or support to start local projects.

Fortunately, there are now organisations such as the Bulldog Trust and the London Community Foundation that are looking to support local people running their own projects.

We can be proud of the thousands of small projects across London making a real difference in their local communities. So if you see a problem in your local community, why not volunteer to help a local project or set one up?

Alternatively, if you know of a local project that needs some help or advice, please get in touch via my website www.syedkamall.co.uk

Syed Kamall is the Conservative MEP for London. He was born and brought up in London and was elected to the European Parliament in 2005, and since 2013 has been Leader of the Conservatives there.

Pokemon go home!

CANNY housemates are cashing in on the latest craze by advertising rooms and flats with easy access - to Pokemon Go locations.

Since the mobile game has taken Britain by storm cleverclogs landlords with rooms available have started including the distance between the front door and nearby Pokestops, locations where players gather supplies.

Online flatshare websites have become full of housemates looking to fill a room mentioning how "passionate" they are about the game.

Dylan Ford is advertising his room for rent including nearby Pokestops

Dylan Ford is helping his housemates rent out his room when he returns home to New Zealand later this month and decided to include Pokestops in his ad to attract potential tenants.

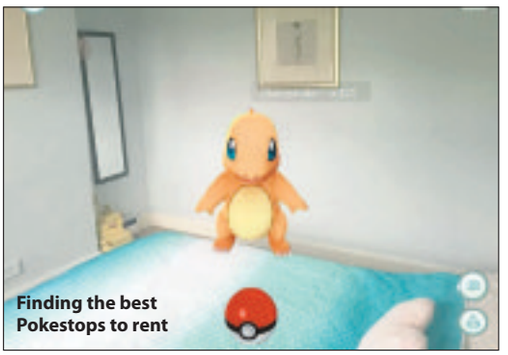
In his ad, the 28-year-old said the Pokestops are just "30 seconds walk from the front door" of his home in Acton, west London.

He said: "We are targeting people in the age range that play Pokemon Go and it's very attractive to them to have Pokestops nearby.

"If they know they can play the game close to the house maybe they'll be more likely to rent the room out.

"We have a couple of Pokestops in the park nearby and we've had a few replies but nobody has mentioned the Pokemon thing, but it definitely seems to be working so far."

Dylan, who works in marketing, added: "It was just a bit of fun really, I don't play the game but my flatmates do and they've tried to get me outside loads but I just don't see the point.



Finding the best Pokestops to rent

"I'm renting my room out because I'm moving back home to New Zealand after being in London for two years."

Another property featuring Pokemon in the description is a house in West Norwood, south London, which even includes the little sprites in every picture of the listing.

The ad, on Spareroom, for the £700-a-month room, to share a house with two female professionals, is named "Where to find the best Pokestop in London to rent."

A £900-a-month en suite double room in Canary Wharf also features the smash hit game in the description.

While other rooms in the block of flats are up for rent for around £800-a-month, the canny landlords whacked up the price after learning that renters would be able to collect their Pokemon goodies while lying in bed, because the flat is in range of a nearby Pokestop.

LETTERS

Can't ignore Crossrail facts

CLLR Coleridge's letter to you regarding Crossrail last week suggests he must be the originator of the saying "My mind is made up. Don't confuse me with the facts."

Here once more are the facts , whether Cllr Coleridge likes them or not :

1. The Crossrail Growth Commission's report, just published, says "Growth is at the heart of the project. Crossrail 2 offers unrivalled potential to boost job growth and housing across the region."
2. The proposed King's Road Station is unique in having NO connectivity with other rail or tube lines.
3. The area around the station site has the second highest possible Public Transport Accessibility score, accorded by Transport for London themselves.
4. The numbers by which Cllr Coleridge is "not convinced" are factual, are unprecedented, and come from Transport for London's own consultation. These opponents are people who have listened to the arguments from the Council and who have also had to put up with regular personal insults in public from the Councillor himself.
5. Cllr Coleridge niggles about the wording of a petition which was set up long before TFL's public consultation. It would have been improper to change the wording after objectors had signed. The whole point is that the consultation came many months later but the opposition became even more overwhelming.
6. Social housing is NOT the same as "affordable" housing. There is a world of difference and the Councillor knows it full well. The identification of existing social housing estates as giving potential for Crossrail-related development came from the Council themselves.
7. TFL have clearly backpedalled on the "No King's Road Closure" claim propagated by the Council. Cllr Coleridge's silence on this point speaks volumes.

Gillespie Robertson
Chelsea

Living up to the wire

THOUSANDS of working families in London could not afford to pay their rent or mortgage for a month if they lost their job, new research reveals.

One in three families in England would run the risk of missing their payments if they suddenly found themselves unemployed, housing charity Shelter said.

It warned that thousands of London families were just "one paycheque away from losing their home".

Almost half of working families surveyed said high housing costs were their main area of concern when it comes to household budgets.

Tolkien auction

RARE first editions of The Hobbit and all three Lord of the Rings books are up for auction - for just £3,000.
The 1937 copy of JRR Tolkien's first novel was among the first 1,500 printed, and is going under the hammer with a £1,000-£1,500 guide price due to a lost dust jacket.
It comes from a private collection, and is being auctioned alongside first editions of the three Lord of the Rings books by London's Chiswick Auctions.
The trio of green bound books - among around 500 first editions of ever printed - were written between 1954 and 1955.
They have an estimate of £2,000-£3,000 when they go up for auction on September 6.

Humanitarian hero is honoured

BY JACK DIXON
jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

AN inspirational west Londoner who dedicated her life to helping people in some of the world's most impoverished countries has been honoured as a global 'change maker' for her outstanding work overseas.

Samra Said was recognised at the Southbank Centre's Festival of Love after being named among 40 of the world's most influential humanitarian campaigners.

The 34-year-old said she was "humbled" to receive the award, which was inspired by the late Nelson Mandela's 67-year struggle for equality in South Africa.

Ms Said, who is the UK programmes coordinator for humanitarian charity Human Appeal, has been involved in several groundbreaking campaigns designed to improve the lives of the world's poorest people.

She compiled a booklet of her own poetry to raise money for communities in Senegal where access to clean water is scarce and organised a masquerade ball to drum up cash for children living in squalid conditions on the streets of the West African country.

If that wasn't enough, Ms Said also pushed her body to the limit by running five kilometres in the blistering heat of Kuwait to raise awareness about drought in Somaliland.

Her astonishing fundraising efforts have generated more than £50,000 in the last year alone.

"It is so humbling to be recognised for projects that I am very much passionate about," she said.

"The award made me reflect on my humanitarian travel with Human Appeal. Having seen how water in some rural areas is scarce and the growing number of children living rough on the streets of Dakar, I was determined to fundraise and raise awareness.

"Knowing full well that one step, one action can change and make a positive impact on those in dire needs made me determined to do what it takes to save lives in Somaliland, Senegal and elsewhere."

Her valiant humanitarian efforts don't merely extend overseas, however. In her role at Human Appeal, Ms Said has also handed out food and clothing to homeless people in the UK, renovated the homes of people hit by the Cumbrian floods last Christmas and visited hospitals to give presents to children seeking mental health treatment.

Othman Moqbel, chief executive of Human Appeal, paid special tribute to Ms Said following the festival.

"Samra's achievements are unmissable and well-deserved. She spends every waking minute helping other people," he said.

"She is an inspiration to everyone she works with, everyone she meets – and to me personally.

"Nobody better embodies the Human Appeal spirit of working tirelessly to make this world a better place for everyone. We are incredibly proud that she has finally been recognised for her unbeatable humanitarian ethic."

Samra Said (centre, black headscarf) pictured with friends and fellow nominees at the Festival of Love

Calls to bring back standing on the terraces at football matches

MORE than £500 could be slashed from the price of a Premier League season ticket at some of London's biggest football clubs – if fans were allowed to stand.

A sports think tank suggested that top-flight teams including Arsenal, Chelsea and Crystal Palace could offer cheaper tickets if the rules banning standing at grounds were lifted.

Supporters could expect to make savings of more than £500 at Arsenal's Emirates Stadium, while Chelsea fans could cut £438 off their fee, according to the Adam Smith Institute.

The author of the report, Ben Southwood, called on sports minister Tracey Crouch to repeal the ban after the Hillsborough inquiry found that the tragedy in 1989 was caused by police incompetence and not standing terraces.

He said: "Unlike the adversarial attitude police, club organisation and fans had during the dark days of the 1980s, we now know how to manage large crowds well. The ban does not fit."

Mr Southwood said the cheapest tickets could fall by up to 57 per cent if clubs were able to increase capacity and widen the choice on offer.

This would leave fewer fans missing out on the big games and improve access to lower income supporters, he said.

Mr Southwood added: "Everyone wants it to happen - fans overwhelmingly. At least some people in government are in favour of this liberalisation as well.

"It would widen the gap between the cheapest and most expensive tickets, which is what has happened in Europe where prices are lower anyway.

"We are not going back to vast open spaces of terracing like in the old days. It would look very different and the areas would be pretty small - accommodating between 1,000 to 5,000 fans at most."

Experts believe Chelsea fans could save more than £400 on a season ticket at Stamford Bridge if rules on standing terraces were relaxed

Where To Find Your Local Favourite Free Newspaper

Westminster & City NEWS — pick up points

Sainsbury's Store	Melbourne Avenue	West Ealing	W13 9BZ
Tesco Metro	94 Church Street	Paddington	NW8 8EX
Tesco Classic Metro	17-25 Regent Street	London	SW1Y 4LR
Sainsbury's Store	38 Stratton Street	Mayfair	W1J 8LT
Sainsbury's Store	15-17 Tottenham Court Road	Central London	W1T 1BJ
Co-op	504-506 Harrow Road	Paddington	W9 3QA
Tesco Classic Metro	22-25 Bedford Street	London	WC2E 9EQ
Co-op	Golden Cross House	London	WC2R 0RG
Notting Hill Gate Library	1 Pembridge Square	Notting Hill	W2 4EW
Kensal Library	20 Golborne Road		W10 5PF
Coach & Horses Pub	23 Greek Street	Soho	W1D 5DH
Pimlico Library	Lupus Street	Pimlico	SW1V 3EY

Kensington & Chelsea NEWS — pick up points

Kensington Central Library	Phillimore Walk	Kensington	W8 7RX
North Kensington Library	108 Ladbroke Grove	Kensington	W11 1PZ
Brompton Library	210 Old Brompton Road	London	SW5 0BS
The Tabernacle, Notting Hill	35 Powis Square	Notting Hill	W11 2AY
Chelsea Library	Chelsea Old Town Hall	Chelsea	SW3 5EZ
Chelsea Sports Centre	Chelsea Manor Street	Chelsea	SW3 5PL
Avonmore Lib. & Neighbourhood Ctr	North End Crescent		W14 8TG

Fulham Chronicle — pick up points

Fulham Library	598 Fulham Road		SW6 5NX

Hammersmith CHRONICLE — pick up points

The Grove Neighbourhood Centre	7 Bradmore Park Road	Hammersmith	W6 0DT
Hammersmith Library	Shepherd's Bush Road		W6 7AT

Shepherd's Bush CHRONICLE — pick up points

Westfield Library	6 Wood Lane		W12 7BF
Askew Road Library	87-91 Askew Road		W12 9AS

Babs is chosen to be the welcoming face of London

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

MAYOR Sadiq Khan has picked EastEnders' Barbara Windsor as the Londoner best suited to welcome foreign visitors to the city.

Dame Barbara has been chosen to lead Team London's 550 "Ambassadors" who are out and about in the capital greeting visitors from around the world and providing them with information and local knowledge.

Throughout the summer the Team London Ambassadors, recognisable in their distinctive magenta uniforms, are providing maps, information and local knowledge from purpose-built 'welcome pods' stationed in a number of key tourist hotspots including Southbank, Trafalgar Square, Piccadilly Circus, Parliament Square, Exhibition Road, St James's Park, Tower of London, Gatwick North and Gatwick South. Over the summer they will volunteer 15,000 hours over 4,000 shifts, helping more than 250,000 visitors.

Dame Barbara joined the Ambassadors in Trafalgar Square to help spread the Mayor's message that London is "open for all". The former Carry On actress has been an enthusiastic supporter of Team London since the Visitor Welcome programme launched ahead of the London 2012 Games.

London attracted a record number of tourists in 2015 with 31.5 million people visiting the capital, a 20 per cent increase on five years ago. 18.6 million were international, compared to 17.4 million in 2014.

"As the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games run in Rio de Janeiro, Team London Ambassadors, 60 per cent of whom began volunteering in the London 2012 Games, are continuing the London Olympic Legacy and volunteering their time to provide a warm welcome to visitors as part of the Mayor's Visitor Welcome programme," said the Mayor's spokesman.

Team London is supporting the Mayor's #LondonIsOpen campaign, launched in the wake of the EU Referendum to show the world that London is united and open for business, and people of all backgrounds and nationalities are welcome.

Barbara Windsor with a few of the 550 Team London Ambassadors

The Ambassadors come from a wide range of backgrounds, reflecting the diverse nature of London's population, and speak over 50 languages between them including Cantonese, Chinese, Hindi, Italian, Punjabi, French, German, Spanish and British Sign Language. Those who speak a second language wear a badge, making it easier for tourists to seek help in their native tongue.

Dame Barbara said: "I am thrilled to join the Team London Ambassadors. As the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games happen in Rio de Janeiro, it's fantastic to see how strong our own Games legacy is here in London, with many of our volunteers beginning their journey back in 2012.

"Our Team London Ambassadors hail from countries around the world and are doing a brilliant job of showing London is truly open to visitors from all corners of the globe.

"Team London is a wonderful initiative, getting Londoners out there volunteering for our city, giving tips and advice to visitors and making sure London remains the greatest destination in the world."

Mayor Khan said: "As excitement builds for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, I am pleased that our Team London Ambassadors are back out on the streets again this summer, showing that London is open and ready to welcome visitors from all corners of the world.

"Volunteering is a great way to break down barriers and encourage people to build connections with their fellow Londoners. The Team London Ambassadors programme is testament to this and I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the volunteers and Team Leaders for their hard work and contribution in making London the world's best place to live, work and visit"

Due to the success of the initiative, Team London has been asked to deliver the volunteering programme for the London 2017 Summer of Athletics, which includes the IPC ParaAthletics World Championships and the IAAF World Championships.

Team Leader Francette Albin, who spent the morning working with Dame Barbara in Trafalgar Square said: "My team comes from all corners of the capital and they're always enthusiastic to share our love of this city. We're here to show the world that London is open to everyone and I look forward to welcoming many more people to the capital this Summer."

Adeniyi Tella, a new Team London Ambassador added: "In my day job, I work for Great Western Railways at Paddington Station, and when I was given the opportunity to become a Team London Ambassador this year, I leapt at the chance. There's nothing I don't know about how to navigate round London, I love sharing this insider knowledge with visitors and locals alike."

Same views on Brexit

THE majority of Londoners who voted in the European Union referendum in June would vote the same way if it was held again this week, according to new research.

More than 92 per cent of people polled said they would not change their minds in the wake of the Brexit result.

The survey found that, of those who would swap, more would sway from Remain to Leave than Leave to Remain according to the poll by KIS Finance.

Landmark anniversary

A NEW exhibition in London will mark the 150th anniversary of the first communications cable laid across the Atlantic Ocean, connecting Europe and America.

The City of London Corporation's Guildhall Art Gallery has teamed up with King's College London, the Courtauld Institute of Art and the Institute of Making at University College London to celebrate the landmark infrastructure scheme.

Experts say cable telegraphy transformed our understanding of time, space and the speed of communication.

Paintings from the Corporation's art gallery will be on display during the exhibition, as well as rare artefacts, including code books and communication devices.

Singer songwriter Anita changes direction with an 'ology' in cats

BY CHRIS DYER

A MOBO winning singer songwriter has become the country's first cat graduate - with an ology in feline behaviour.

Anita Kelsey turned her love of the four-legged pets into a career after getting a first class degree in cat psychology.

The 52-year-old has worked as a backing singer on songs by Razorlight, Boy George, Spice Girls and Kings of Leon and won a MOBO in 2001 for her album as part of UK Garage band Sunship.

She also performed on trance tracks popular in Agia Napa with her vocals in many films, including Dark City, starring Jennifer Connelly.

But Anita decided on a career change after the suicide of a close friend in 2009 and opened her cat behaviour practice in Notting Hill, west London.

Four years later she became an undergraduate at Middlesex University so she could help troubled cats.

Anita, who has two Norwegian Forest cats herself, both seven, called Kiki and Zaza, said: "Lots of people work in animal behaviour but I think I'm the first person to complete a work-based degree based on my practice.

"I wanted to be taken more seriously by vets as I get a lot of referrals from them and think this gives me that footing."

Anita Kelsey has obtained a degree in cat psychology to help in her animal behaviour practice

For Anita's degree research she looked at aggression in cats during grooming and how it can be reduced.

Anita added: "I wanted to try and understand how owners can move forward and see why cats are being aggressive.

"Sometimes it's using the wrong tools, sometimes it's a case of understanding how cats view grooming and how it affects them.

"My ultimate goal is to run a successful behaviour practice.

"When I was younger I wanted to either work with music or cats and I've been lucky enough to do both.

"It's my dream job to work with cats all day."

Her job mainly involves grooming difficult cats while assessing their behaviour to find out how best to get them in a better mood.

Anita worked as a singer songwriter for 25 years before the suicide of her friend caused her to turn her back on the industry.

She added: "I fell into a kind of depression and didn't want to write anymore or go into the studio so I felt a change was needed.

"Music is very emotional so I needed a complete break from it, the music industry is very hard, very cutthroat, and I just wanted to get away from that energy.

"And cats are a great kind of therapy, working with them every day has been a great help."

Zuma the tortoise is saved from being fried

A 90-year-old tortoise was narrowly saved from incineration after being rescued from a garden waste bag - by a thermal imaging camera.

Westminster City Council staff rummaged through 1,000 rubbish bags to track down the pet after its owner alerted them to its plight.

Using thermal imaging software and GPS tracking, 90-year-old tortoise Zuma was hunted down on his way to a waste plant and rescued after a two-and-a-half hour search

through 10 tonnes of garden refuse.

Owner Sarah Joiner, 56, had called the council after realising what had happened and praised them for their work finding her pet, which she has owned for 40 years.

Zuma had crawled into a bag which, along with 1,000 others, was on its way to the South East London Combined Heat and Power facility.

Mrs Joiner, from central London, said: "Thank you is never going to be enough. It was amazing teamwork. There was no nonsense about it, just enormous good will in finding him.

"I can't thank Jarno Stet from the council, Lynn Davis from Veolia, plus Ben and Simon from SELCHP enough."

During the hunt, a thermal imaging camera was used and incredibly Zuma was found safe and well.

Lynn Davis, Contract Manager for District Heating at Veolia, said: "I'm delighted that we were able to find Zuma and return him to Mrs Joiner unharmed - he really has survived against the odds.

"The team at SELCHP were all keen to help when they heard what had happened and together we were able to ensure that the search was conducted safely and effectively.

"This was certainly a different way to spend a Friday afternoon and I am just relieved we were successful."

Sarah Joiner is reunited with 90-year-old tortoise Zuma who was found moments before he reached South East London Combined Heat and Power facility

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Diplomacy is key during the Princess Royal's visit to Russia

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

WHEN the Princess Royal visits Russia later this month for the commemorations for the 75th anniversary of the first Arctic Convoys, the diplomatic ties planned for the occasion possibly won't be helped by mentioning her father's feelings.

The Duke of Edinburgh is a direct descendant of the former Russian royal family, who were murdered in a grisly way by Bolsheviks during the Russian Revolution and the plain-speaking duke is famous for comment on the killings.

When asked in 1967 if he would like to visit the Soviet Union, the Duke replied: "I would like to go to Russia very much, although the bastards murdered half my family."

Empress Alix and Grand Duchess Elizabeth of Russia were the Duke's great aunts, sisters of his grandmother.

Empress Alix was executed with the rest of her immediate family, shot in the head by Russian revolutionaries acting on the orders of Lenin. Her sister Elizabeth suffered an even more horrible death.

Empress Alix, left, and Grand Duchess Elizabeth of Russia who were both murdered

In July 1918 she and other members of the imperial Russian family were driven in carts to an abandoned iron mine with a pit 20 metres deep. Lenin's secret police the Cheka beat all their prisoners before throwing their victims into this pit, Elisabeth being the first. Hand grenades were then hurled down the shaft, but only one victim died as a result of the grenades.

According to the personal account of one of the killers, Elisabeth and the others survived the initial fall into the mine, prompting the Cheka to toss in a grenade after them. Following the explosion, he claimed to have heard Elisabeth and the others singing an Orthodox hymn from the bottom of the shaft. When the singing continued after a second grenade was thrown in, a large quantity of brushwood was shoved into the opening and set alight.

Doubtless this memory will not be on the official agenda when the Princess Royal represents The Queen at the ceremonies in Arkhangelsk, north west Russia, on August 30 to mark the anniversary of the Arctic Convoys with which Britain assisted Russia during World War Two.

The convoy route, described by Winston Churchill as "the worst journey in the world" was the most dangerous of the war. The convoys ran the blockade by the German Navy, avoiding mines and U-boats to the supply the Soviet Union, playing a key role a part in supplying Leningrad – the present day St Petersburg - during the siege.

The cost to life was huge. Between August 1941 and May 1945, around 1,400 merchant vessels escorted by ships of the Royal Navy, Royal Canadian Navy and US Navy made the journey. Some 85 merchant vessels and 16 Royal Navy ships were lost during the convoys and more than 3,000 British merchant seamen, Servicemen and their allies died.

To this day the UK and Russia continue to honour the sacrifice of Royal Navy sailors and merchant seamen, including through the UK's Arctic Star medal. Arctic Convoy veterans and The Band of HM Royal Marines will also participate in the commemorations.

The Princess Royal will be making a diplomatic visit to Arkhangelsk in Russia to mark the anniversary of the Arctic Convoys with which Britain assisted Russia during WW2

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SOW THE SEEDS OF LOVE

Sophie gets on her bike

SUPER-cyclist Sophie Countess of Wessex is spending her summer holidays from royal duties getting hot in the saddle as she strains through riding 60 hours a day in preparation for a long hard slog.

The Countess is currently in training for a 445-mile trek as part of the Edinburgh to London Diamond Challenge on behalf of the Duke of Edinburgh Award, to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the DoE's founding by The Duke of Edinburgh.

Sophie Countess of Wessex is seeking sponsorship for her 445-mile cycle ride in aid of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Diamond Appeal

The long-term supporter of the DoE Award, is set to cycle from the Palace of Holyroodhouse to Buckingham Palace, setting off from Edinburgh on September 19 and arriving in London on September 25.

The biking challenge aims to raise money for the Duke of Edinburgh Award Diamond Appeal and Buckingham Palace is asking the public to sponsor the royal rider. Funds will go towards supporting disadvantaged and disabled young people to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

"I think if you'd told me a few months ago that I would be able to cycle 60 miles in one go I would have laughed, but here I am doing 60 miles a day," said Sophie in a promo video issued by Buckingham Palace.

"It's been hard and there have definitely been moments when I have wondered what on earth I have decided to do."

She will be riding with a team of cyclists from four of the regiments of which she is the royal chief, the 5th Battalion The Rifles; RAF Wittering; Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps and Corps of Army Music.

"They are all experienced cyclists, I am not, they know what they're doing, I don't," she said.

"They know how to get me from one point to the next, they're providing a lot of chat to distract me, and a lot of encouragement up the hills.

"They're really just there to get me from A to B and they've been incredible and huge enthusiasts and, to be honest with you, I could not be doing this now if it wasn't for them."

To sponsor The Countess please visit https://www.justgiving.com/Countess-of-Wessex

Museum could benefit from the George effect

THE next beneficiary of the Prince George Effect (PGE) is expected to be the Natural History Museum, as apparently he and his Mum are regular visitors.

The PGE, the copycat factor that influences other young parents to buy whatever the infant heir to the throne is wearing, is now tipped to boost visitor numbers to the landmark museum on the Cromwell Road.

The Natural History Museum in Kensington and regular visitor Prince George

At the recent function at the museum, where the Duchess of Cambridge met with representatives of various museums who have been entered to win £100,000 from the Art Fund, she told Nicky Wilson from West Lothian's Jupiter Artland about their regular trips to the landmark.

"The Duchess said Prince George comes here a lot. We were talking about children interacting with sculpture and contemporary art and he loves doing that, and apparently he also loves 3D three-dimensional sculptures," said Nicky.

Singles have more fun!

BY MARK WAGHORN

IF you're feeling left on the shelf then don't be downhearted - single people really do have richer social lives just like Prince Harry, according to new research.

The world's most eligible bachelor is renowned for loving a good time - while his married older sibling has a reputation for being rather dull.

Now psychologists have revealed that being a bachelor, or spinster, can be a much more fulfilling existence both at home and at work - boosting "psychological growth and development".

They say the dating shows and apps that strive to make sure none of us end up on the shelf may be barking up the wrong tree.

Singletons now outnumber married individuals in both the UK and the US for the first time since records began.

And Dr Bella DePaulo, of the University of California, Santa Barbara, said, far from feeling lonely, many embrace their freedom.

She told an American Psychological Association meeting in Denver: "The preoccupation with the perils of loneliness can obscure the profound benefits of solitude.

"It is time for a more accurate portrayal of single people and single life - one that recognises the real strengths and resilience of people who are single, and what makes their lives so meaningful."

She cited long term studies that have shown they value meaningful work more than their hitched counterparts. They are also more connected to parents, siblings, friends, neighbours and colleagues.

Dr DePaulo explained: "When people marry, they become more insular."

But she said research is lacking because of the 814 papers she found, most just used them as a comparison group to learn more about marriage.

Those that did focus on single people revealed some telling findings. For example, they have a heightened sense of self determination and they are more likely to experience "a sense of continued growth and development as a person."

Another study of lifelong single people showed self sufficiency serves them well. The more self sufficient they were, the less likely they were to experience negative emotions. For married people, the opposite was true, according to Dr DePaulo.

There are more unmarried people than ever before in the United States, according to the Bureau of Labour Statistics.

In 2014, there were 124.6 million unmarried Americans over age 16, meaning 50.2 percent of the nation's adult population identified as single, according to BLS. In contrast, only 37.4 percent of the population was unmarried in 1976.

Latest figures from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) shows 51% of people in England and Wales are single - meaning they have overtaken those who are married for the first time.

It is understood the proportion of single and married people varies little across all four UK countries.

Dr DePaulo said married people in the States should be doing a lot better than single people in view of the number of laws that benefit them. But in many ways, they aren't.

She said: "People who marry get access to more than 1,000 federal benefits and protections, many of them financial.

"Considering all of the financial and cultural advantages people get just because they are married, it becomes even more striking that single people are doing as well as they are."

Despite the advantages of staying single, Dr DePaulo doesn't claim one status is better than the other.

She added: "More than ever before, Americans can pursue the ways of living that work best for them. There is no one blueprint for the good life.

"What matters is not what everyone else is doing or what other people think we should be doing, but whether we can find the places, the spaces and the people that fit who we really are and allow us to live our best lives."

The advantages of being single - Prince Harry

Taking a look inside Prince Charles' place

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

VISITORS who want a poke around Prince Charles's place to see his personal paintings now have their chance as Clarence House is open to the public for this month only.

Hour-long tours of the luxury home will take visitors through several rooms including the Lancaster Room, the Library, the Dining Room, the Garden Room, where the Prince of Wales officially receives his guests, and the Morning Room, a drawing room that got its name from the light that illuminates the room early in the day and which is said to be the Duchess of Cornwall's favourite room.

Tickets for the tour cost just £10 per person. For an extra £25 you can upgrade to the exclusive afternoon tour which gives visitors additional access to the Cornwall Room, the home of 22 watercolours painted by Prince Charles, and a complimentary glass of Champagne.

Tickets can be reserved at royalcollection.org.uk and the money from the ticket sales will go to the Royal Collection Trust charity which pays for maintenance and repairs on royal residences.

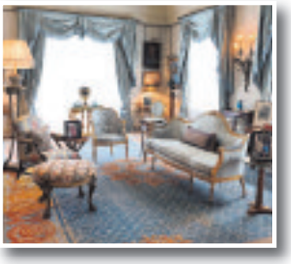
Clarence House was built between 1825 and 1827 to the designs of John Nash as the new London home of George III's third son, Prince William Henry, Duke of Clarence and his wife Adelaide. The house incorporated the south-western corner of the Tudor buildings of St James's Palace.

The house created by Nash was a bright, stuccoed mansion of classical proportions. Facing west on to Stable Yard Road, it had three storeys above a basement and a hipped slate roof. There was a double portico at the centre of the new west front, leading to the entrance hall (now the Library), which in turn connected with a long corridor or gallery running the whole width of the house. To either side of the entrance hall, Nash created a Breakfast Room (now the Morning Room) and Dining Room, with three principal reception rooms directly above on the first floor.

The interior of Clarence House was plain in comparison to Nash's designs for Buckingham Palace. Ornamental plasterwork was confined to the reception rooms on the first floor, which were hung with crimson damask.

Nash made numerous alterations to his original plan as work proceeded, and the final cost of £22,232 (£2,120,000 at today's prices) was more than double what he had originally estimated.

Clarence House was designed by John Nash. Below the Morning Room and the Library



Clarence House became the London home of Princess Elizabeth and The Duke of Edinburgh, following their marriage in 1947, when the Victorian interiors were given a fresh new appearance.

Post-war restrictions on building and materials meant that there was still an overall simplicity to the furnishings and much of the furniture came in the form of the couple's wedding presents. In the Dining Room, for instance, the Georgian dining table and 20 ladder-back chairs were the gift of the Royal Warrant Holders Association, while the mahogany sideboard and four side tables were a present from Queen Mary.

With Princess Elizabeth's accession as Queen, the royal couple moved to Buckingham Palace and Clarence House was prepared for the accommodation of Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, who moved in with Princess Margaret shortly before the Coronation in 1953.

The Queen Mother created the Morning Room in the space that had been The Duke of Edinburgh's study, installing a Georgian marble chimneypiece and a new plaster ceiling with her own crown. In 1960, she opened out two of the rooms on the ground floor to form the Garden Room.

The rooms of Clarence House were furnished and hung with works of art acquired by The Queen Mother over her 60-year career as a collector and patron of artists.

The collection was particularly strong in 20th-century British art, embracing important works by John Piper, Graham Sutherland, WS Sickert and Augustus John. She also purchased superb examples of Fabergé, English porcelain and silver, particularly pieces relating to the Bowes-Lyon family.

The Queen Mother greatly enjoyed hosting luncheons and evening receptions at Clarence House. All foreign Heads of State called there for tea in the afternoon of the first day of a State Visit.

Capital nights

gigguide

Compiled by Jack Dixon

2ManyDJs
XOYO, Shoreditch
Wednesday August 17

Formed of Belgian brothers Steven and David Dewaele, 2ManyDJs bring their eclectic off-kilter vibes to London for the first in a series of shows marking XOYO's fourth birthday. From funky RnB to rockabilly to German techno, if it gets the party started 2ManyDJs have it in their record collection.

Mothers
The Lexington, Islington
Wednesday August 17

Breakthrough indie band Mothers are top billing alongside Xylaroo and Fil Bo Riva for this Pias Nites show at the Lexington. The four-piece, from Athens, Georgia, burst onto the scene earlier this year with debut album 'When You Walk a Long Distance You Are Tired' and are fronted by emotive singer/guitarist Kristine Leschper.

Faithless
O2 Academy, Brixton
Thursday August 18
Dance music giants Faithless return to raise the roof off the Brixton Academy with a stellar set bursting with huge hits. Most famous for legendary club anthem 'Insomnia', the London trio Maxi Jazz, Sister Bliss and Rollo have also earned a reputation for their strong political messages ('Mass Destruction'; 'We Come 1').

VISUAL imagery has always played a prominent part in Alison Goldfrapp's music. Known for her outlandish costumes and theatrical performance style, the singer has never been afraid to make a spectacle of herself.

A string of memorable photo shoots have depicted the 50-year-old in skimpy silk gowns, tinselly bric-a-brac garments and on one occasion full pirate attire.

But now Goldfrapp is reversing the roles to go behind the camera for the first time.

Indulging her appetite for the power of pictures, the singer put fellow stars Laura Mvula and Jack Savoretti in the spotlight for a special shoot ahead of their performances at Somerset House this summer.

In a series of snaps entitled Anticipation, Goldfrapp set out to capture the artists' bubbling excitement in the run-up to show time – culminating in the "rush of energy and elation" experienced at the height of a perfect performance.

The shoot was commissioned by American Express, the headline sponsor for Somerset House's Summer Series, which welcomed the likes of Benjamin Clementine, James Morrison and Courtney Barnett in June.

Loving the imagery - Alison Goldfrapp

Goldfrapp, who performed at the same venue three years ago, says the project enabled her to recapture that unique exhilaration that artists experience moments before taking to the stage.

"Photography has become a real passion for me so when American Express invited me to do this I jumped at the chance," she said.

"I can vividly recall the moments that made my performance at the Summer Series so memorable: from the anticipation before going on stage to the energy of the crowd, and the sense of sheer elation as the audience were captivated by the music."

Goldfrapp shadowed soul singer Mvula ahead of her Summer Series performance on July 10, documenting her journey from the dressing room to the final encore.

She then snapped Anglo-Italian guitarist Savoretti five days later to offer a unique view of the backstage build-up.

In her first commercial photographic commission, Goldfrapp swapped the microphone for a digital 'powershot' camera.

The images capture Mvula and Savoretti in the iconic surrounds of Somerset House – from the intimate antechambers to the majestic courtyard that became their stage.

Goldfrapp added: "As artists, Laura's vibrancy and intensity, contrasted with Jack's laid-back vibe, made them fascinating subjects to shoot against the stunning backdrop of Somerset House."

Alison's photos of Laura Mvula, above, and Jack Savoretti

The project has proved an exciting new venture for the singer, who has spent over a decade as the driving force behind the electro-pop duo that bears her name.

Famous for huge chart hits including Ooh La La and Number 1, Goldfrapp has carved out an enviable career as one of the pioneers of the glam resurgence.

Born in north London, she formed the double act with synth whizz Will Gregory in her early thirties and the duo went on to win a Grammy Award nomination for their acclaimed third album Supernature.

But despite turning 50 this year, the singer's latest creative adventure suggests she is certainly not slowing down.

Charlotte Nimmo, head of live events at Somerset House, said: "Alison gave an incredible performance on the Summer Series stage in 2013 and it's great to have her back at Somerset House to capture two of this year's headline acts before they take to our courtyard stage."

THE glamour of the 'Golden Twenties' is on its way to London as part of a unique celebration of the Prohibition era.

Hipsters will be dancing the Charleston at a top secret venue next month as the capital enjoys a taste of the era's famous opulence.

Harking back to a time when pleasure-seeking and decadence were the watchwords of the day, the Prohibition Party is being billed as the most hedonistic event of the year.

Expect fast cars and loose morals, short bobs and even shorter hemlines – London is going back in time.

"Prohibition sweeps guests away to the giddy magic and romance of the glistening Twenties, a time when footloose flappers danced the Charleston, card sharp cads tried their luck at the roulette table, and everyone quaffed elegantly on the free-flowing bootlegged booze," said an insider behind the top secret event.

"Prohibition is a mesmeric foray into a bygone era in which sensational glamour and wanton waywardness were the order of the day."

DJs will be trading in the superclubs for the gramophones, with silent cinema, dancing troupes and gambling tables thrown in for good measure.

Guests will also have to peer inside the pages of books to find the cocktail menus in a bid to evade the beady eyes of the law.

In an age of soaring stocks and bootleg barons, the famous parties of the era cultivated an unparalleled atmosphere of opulence and exuberance. Now Londoners will be given a taste of the high life.

The Prohibition Party takes place on Saturday September 17 at an as yet unannounced London venue. For more information visit www.prohibition1920s.com

Back to the Roaring Twenties at the Prohibition Party

Capital nights

No sex please, we're miserable

WE are understandably deeply concerned over how Andrew Davies is going to please his BBC masters with his new TV adaptation of Les Miserables, as there is very little sex in Victor Hugo's original book.

Davies, who hugely boosted the ratings of the recent War and Peace epic by adding a number of sex scenes, has been tasked with giving Hugo's 19th century classic a modern look that will appeal to the sort of viewer who is unlikely to wade through the 1,500-pages of its English translation.

Our literary editor, who acclaims Les Miserables as "one of the six greatest novels of the world" says that it is no Fanny Hill and aside from the bit where Fantine turns to prostitution after pulling out her hair and two of her front teeth – rarely a good look – the book rises above all of that smutty stuff that so delights the audience of today.

Oo-err, without all of that sweaty stuff which has helped to make triumphs of Versailles, The Night Manager, Poldark and War and Peace, how will the famed and much-regarded Davies manage?

Surely he will not resort to a touch of amplification, so loved by us hacks, as he did with the Tolstoy adaptation, which surprised some viewers with racy scenes that did not appear to be in the original novel?

When challenged by the BBC's Kirsty Lang that he had "put a bit more sex in it", Davies nimbly replied that it was "all in there" if readers could look beyond the lines.

"Tolstoy just didn't actually write the scenes and I couldn't see why. So I thought I would," he said.

An excellent device and we look forward to the scenes that Hugo forgot to write about Valjean meeting Chesty Morgan in a pole-dancing club.

Victor Hugo - Would he approve?

Anna Richardson presents Naked on Channel 4. Has it gone too far?

TELEVISION'S cheapest-ever peep show, Channel 4's ludicrously-obvious ratings bid Naked Attraction, could bring a bonus of up to £1 billion for the BBC.

Naked Attraction, C4's appalling endorsement of voyeurism, is rumoured to have finally tilted the balance in Whitehall for Channel 4 to be privatised and there's talk of proceeds of the sell-off to be used by the Government to help fund the other public broadcaster, the one that doesn't instigate infantile stunts in order to attract an audience of peeping toms.

The word in Whitehall is that one option now facing the Department of Culture is to sell C4 in order to provide funding for top quality BBC programming that could be sold profitably around the world.

The debate on whether to privatise Channel 4 has raged since Margaret Thatcher was at No 10 and many Governments since have agonised on whether to get shot of it.

But now that C4 has plummeted to concocting a game show the only point of which is to encourage perving over close-ups of contestants' genitals, powerful voices are asking "is this what we want from a public-service broadcaster that has our name on it?"

We hear that Naked Attraction, and the uproar surrounding the scheduling scam that it is clearly nothing more than a 21st century version of a one penny pier peep machine, has influenced the new Culture Minister Karen Bradley and Prime Minister Theresa May to now seriously consider a sale.

With recent revenues being around £940 million, C4 is said to be an attractive option as the British Gas equivalent of Mrs May's Government and analysts believe £1 billion could be made from privatisation.

Although the Treasury is likely to want to use any such windfall for other budgets, one suggestion is that a large chunk, if not all of it, could be invested in "a Beeb pot", a fund that the BBC could go to in order to produce, with Government approval, quality productions like House Of Cards which make a fortune for US-based Netflix, and lessen the burden on the license fee payer.

The advantage of this new thinking for the Government is that, by controlling the fund and for what productions it is eked out, it would then have some say in the sort of TV that the BBC produces.

The new PM is thought to favour seeing the BBC return to raising the game and leading the world pack in TV drama, documentaries and comedy. Naked Attraction and its cheap, tawdry like is thought not to feature as an example of her drive to reinstate Great British entertainment values.

"At a time when it is clearly in the BBC's interest not to upset the Government, the wise might want to take into consideration the sort of programmes that the new PM likes," said one TV analyst.

"Like the other Iron Lady of Number 10, Theresa May is a big fan of Yes Minister. It might be an idea for the bosses at the BBC to start thinking about bringing that back.

WHILST the Academy Awards is controversially slacking at representing black, Asian and minority ethnic actors and film-makers at the Oscars, ITV is aiming to right the balance.

A long overdue new awards ceremony celebrating BAME icons in public life is to be broadcast on ITV. The BEAM Awards are to celebrate the achievements of influential public figures from BAME backgrounds, to be presented at a glittering ceremony on October 12th.

"The awards will highlight BAME talent that is currently underrepresented within celebrity, media, journalism, arts, sports and politics," said an ITV spokesman.

"The nominations are now open for talented stars who have excelled in these areas and have inspired and encouraged the next generation."

The London Palladium is set to host the prestigious black tie event, which will be hosted by Alesha Dixon and Sir Trevor McDonald.

Sir Trevor said: "I am delighted to be a part of these awards. They will play an important part in our society, and I have no doubt that they will continue to flourish."

Britain's Got Talent judge added: "I am proud to host the BEAM awards, as I think it's a great opportunity to highlight the successes of BAME people from a variety of industries."

Nominations have opened and the public has the chance to submit nominations up until September 4th, by visiting www.beamawards.com/nominate in the categories: Actor of the Year (Male), Actor of the Year (Female), TV Personality of the Year (Male), TV Personality of the Year (Female), Sports Personality of the Year (Male), Sports Personality of the Year (Female), Comedy Act of the Year, Cultural Icon, Politician of the Year, Entrepreneur of the Year, Inspiration of the Year, International Icon of the Year, Music Artist or Band Award, Diverse Company Award.

BEAM Awards founder Paul Sesay said: "If ever there was a time to celebrate and elevate the truly staggering diverse talent the UK has to offer, it is now.

"The BEAM Awards aims to bring communities together and highlight the phenomenal achievements of BAME icons nationwide. We have a fundamental passion to drive change and make a lasting and sustainable difference across the media industry and beyond."

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Talk of the town

David Bowie

Bowie's final work on London stage

DAVID Bowie's final work, entitled Lazarus, will make the King's Cross Theatre its 'ground control' later this year in a London premiere.

The musical, which opened in New York in November 2015, is inspired by the book, The Man Who Fell To Earth and focuses on Thomas Newton, as he remains still on Earth – a 'man' unable to die, his head soaked in cheap gin and haunted by a past love.

The Walter Tevis novel was first adapted into a film starring Bowie in 1976 and the stage version was completed by the legendary rock star, alongside co-writer Edna Walsh, just prior to his death from cancer at the age of 69 in January 2016.

The New York production became a focal point for fans, following the news of the singer's untimely demise, with some of his devotees creating an impromptu shrine at the theatre in his honour.

The New York run of Lazarus sold out in record time and the limited season at one of London's newest theatres, is expected to be just as popular, as it features three unreleased Bowie tracks.

Reprising their roles from the original New York production are US TV star Michael C Hall (Dexter, Six Feet Under), Michael Esper (Last Ship, American Idiot) and teenage sensation, Sophia Anne Caruso, with full casting to be announced at a later date.

Lazarus will run at the King's Cross Theatre from October 25 until January 22. For more information, visit the website lazarusmusical.com

Michael C Hall and Sophie Caruso in Lazarus

The Bodyguard *****

SOUL superstar, Beverley Knight returned to the London stage and a full standing ovation from a capacity crowd at the Dominion Theatre for the gala opening night of The Bodyguard, *writes Nicky Sweetland.*

The singer is reprising the role of Rachel Marron in the stage musical adaptation, which is based on the 1992 film of the same name featuring the music of the late Whitney Houston.

Watched by a plethora of celebrities includingBond Girl Naomie Harris, Towie's Lewis Bloor and former Strictly Come Dancing starRobin Windsor, the 'Queen of the Night' proved just why she is in such high demand, as both a stage performer and recording artist, with a vocal performance of such a high calibre that many who witnessed it were moved to tears.

From the opening bars of the first show-stopping number (accompanied by high energy choreography and blazing stage effects), to the utterly compelling finale of I Will Always Love You, Knight put in a truly astonishing performance.

The jukebox musical has been dragged up-to-date since its previous outing in the West End and follows a global superstar (Knight) who, while in pursuit of an Academy Award, finds herself under threat from a deranged fan.

A specialist bodyguard (Ben Richards) is drafted in to protect the family from the menace and, after an initially frosty reception, becomes a loved member of the household.

Knight is joined by Ben Richards who brings a charm to the stony faced, uptight bodyguard and effortlessly portrays the struggle between maintaining a work ethic and his admiration for his employer. The chemistry with Knight is simply electric. A scene during which they discover their love for one another in a karaoke bar is both funny and heart warming.

Rachel Johns, as Knight's sister Nicki, proves her powerhouse vocals can match those of her on-stage sibling and with a much more sensitive characterisation, than in previous productions, their duet Run to You is an utter joy.

The chilling story has been modified slightly but continues to pack a punch focusing on the rise of celebrity culture and the public obsession with idols.

With classic 90s songs performed in a contemporary setting, the updated version does, at times, feel a little bit cheesy especially during a bizarre film montage highlighting the couple's relationship but the performances are so strongthat any minor misgivings are quickly forgiven.

And it's the performance by Beverley Knight, which many will be going to see, with her simply stunning vocals worth the ticket price alone.

The Bodyguard continues at the Dominion Theatre, visit the www.thebodyguard musical.com/london

Knight's vocal performance alone is worth the ticket price

Beverley Knight as Rachal Marron with, below, Ben Richards as The Bodyguard *Photos by Paul Coltas*

Talk of the town

The cast of Mandela Trilogy *Photo by John Snelling*

A fascinating musical tribute to the life of Nelson Mandela is set to be presented at the Royal Festival Hall later this month, as part of a nationwide tour.

Mandela Trilogy, written and directed by Michael Williams with music by Peter Louis van Dijk and Mike Campbell, had its European premiere at Wales Millennium Centre in 2012.

Told in three parts by a cast and orchestra of more than 60 South African performers, the music matches the vastly different phases of Mandela's journey from freedom fighter to president.

The upbeat jazz and swing-influenced songs of Sophiatown are framed by musical styles more familiar in contemporary opera – with a dash of Xhosa folk music that grounds the production in its African roots.

From tribal initiation rites on the banks of the Mbashe River, through the heady and rebellious jazz-fuelled days in Sophiatown, to incarceration and reflection on Robben Island and finally beyond to freedom – this is the story of one of the world's most iconic figures.

The amazing life of Nelson Mandela is brought vividly to the stage by Cape Town Opera in a large-scale celebration and tribute to the man who touched hearts and minds around the world.

Written by two different composers, each act is in stark contrast to the others, but with an over-arching dramatic theme that shines a light on the life of an extraordinary man.

Graeme Farrow, artistic and creative director at Wales Millennium Centre said: "Following its debut performances and fantastic reception at Wales Millennium Centre in 2012, we are delighted to be presenting Cape Town Opera's Mandela Trilogy on a UK and Ireland tour next summer.

"Showcasing the talent of the hugely gifted Cape Town Opera company, this production will offer audiences a wonderful spectacle with its exceptional cast, award-winning chorus and original score.

"I'm delighted we are able to share the story of Nelson Mandela's heroic and inspirational life, two years after his death.

"This tour is another step in the development of collaborative and exchange projects between the centre and our strategic partner – Cape Town Opera."

Mandela Trilogy will be performed at the Royal Festival Hall from 31st August- 3rd September. For more details go to www.southbankcentre.co.uk

Dinner with The Twits

YOU can feast on bird pie and sup on some gruesome cocktails at the Vaults, beneath Waterloo Station next month, where diners are being given the opportunity to join Mr and Mrs Twit as they renew their wedding vows, *writes Nicky Sweetland.*

From the team that entertained scores of thrill seekers last year with their immersive Alice's Adventures Underground, Les Enfants Terribles theatre company is offering a unique dining experience, which involves one of the most famously horrid homes, ever to have been imagined.

I caught up with producer, Emma Brunjes, who talked me through the concept behind the show, which is the first of Roald Dahl's works ever to have been reproduced for an adult only audience (the show is rated 16years+).

Do you dare? Dinner at The Twits in the Vaults below Waterloo Station

Emma said: "As it's the 100th anniversary of Roald Dahl's birth it felt like a really fitting opportunity to take a much loved text, that the writers Oliver Lansley and Anthony Spargo adore, and create a piece of work just for adults."

The first edition of The Twits was published in 1980 and, with Quentin Blake's infinitely recognisable illustrations, has become one of the nation's favourite family stories. For those who have never ventured into that world the story follows a hideous and vindictive couple, who continuously play mischievous practical jokes on each other. The filthy pair are famed for their cuisine and so the idea of producing a show, which involved some frightful food seemed perfect.

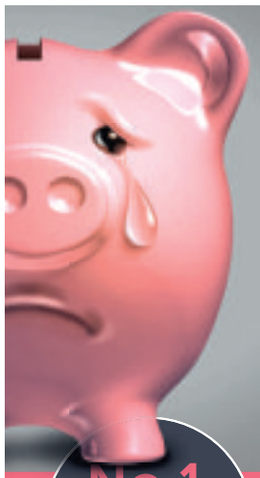
The 'Revolting Recipes' will be recreated by the culinary pairing of Bompas and Parr, who are renowned for their artistic and groundbreaking dishes.

"We love the boys at Bompas and Parr and they were top of our hit list, so we were really excited when they said yes," Emma said

After a pre-show drink in the bar you are welcomed into the ghastly garden, where you will join the Twits for an evening of madness and mayhem. There is even a very special Muggle-Wump cocktail cavern for you to 'hang out' in afterwards, making the experience a fun and exciting evening, which is perfect to share with friends.

"When you see an audience member come into the world you've created and watch them enjoying the show, it's a phenomenal experience," Emma said.

Dinner at the Twits is running at The Vaults, Waterloo from September 4 - October 30 - www.twitsdinner.com



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Talk of the town

Kerry Ellis does her bit to cheer on the teams at the football match

Phantom v Les Mis the ultimate challenge

SOME very fancy footwork was on display at Bromley Football Club last weekend, as stars from the West End stage teamed up with celebrity sportsmen for the annual Les Mis versus Phantom football match.

The award winning charity match between the two longest running musicals in the West End saw teams of stagey strikers take to the field to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer support and Brake, the road safety charity.

The beautiful sunshine at Hayes Lane provided the perfect backdrop for the family fun day and gave fans of musical theatre the opportunity to get up close to some of their idols.

Pre-match entertainment was provided by a host of stars, including Titanic the Musical's Rob Houchen, Aladdin's Nathan Amzi and former Miss Saigon, Eva Noblezada, who is currently enjoying an acclaimed spell in Les Misréables, and who wowed audiences with her version of Don't Forget Me from Smash.

The celebrated singer Kerry Ellis, whose husband, Luton Town coach James Townsend, played for the Les Mis team, presented another topnotch turn.

Ellis recently wowed crowds as part of the 1966 World Cup 50th anniversary celebrations at Wembley where she performed the Nancy Sinatra classic These Boots Are Made for Walking. The singer, who will return to the West End in October to take the leading role in the musical Murder Ballad at the Arts Theatre, repeated the number for her scores of fans to a chorus of rousing cheers before the kick off.

The teams for the anticipated competition were made up of performers from the worlds of musicals and sport, with former X-Factor winner Sam Bailey joining the Les Mis side under the management of Gareth Southgate. The England women's manager Mark Sampson presided over the Phantom team, who, once again triumphed after a 90-minute thriller.

Les Mis opened the scoring with an early goal, but the Phantom crew managed to claw one back from Jeremy Rees just before half time to even up the score.

Phantom scored again just after the break with a scuffle in the penalty area leading to a scrappy goal, which gave the Her Majesty's theatre team the edge. They then added another two in just a few minutes to take a 4-1 lead.

Les Mis scraped two back in a late surge, but the Phantom boys dashed their hopes by clocking up another two late goals, which saw them win by six goals to three and crowned as champions.

Andrea Lowe and Nick Le Prevost in How the Other Half Love at the Duke of York Theatre

Engaging, funny, light and beautifully written

Following an enormously successful run at the Theatre Royal Haymarket, the classic social comedy, How the Other Half Loves has transferred to The Duke of York Theatre to continue to tickle the ribs of theatre goers, with Alan Ayckbourn's very unique style of intellectual humour, *writes Nicky Sweetland*.

Andrea Lowe takes over the role of Teresa Phillips from Tamzin Outhwaite, and joins the all-star cast for the fast paced, farcical comic offering, which is set in the swinging sixties.

Best known for portraying DS Annie Cabbot in the ITV series DCI Banks, Andrea Lowe started her career at the Crucible in Sheffield in Harold Pinter's The Birthday Party and is excited to back on the stage in Ayckbourn's classic tale of social graces and personal misunderstanding.

The play stars Jason Merrells (Lark Rise to Candleford, Waterloo Road), Matthew Cottle (Game On) and Gillian Wright (Eastenders) alongside stage stalwarts, Nicholas Le Prevost and Jenny Seagrove, who have already clocked up over 100 performances of the show.

Andrea told me about the difficulties of joining such an established cast, butreceiving tremendous support from her colleagues.

She said: "Everybody has been absolutely wonderful, particularly the cast. I've had a lot of support and even Tamzin (Outhwaite), who left, was really supportive, but it's been a strange process. It's been almost like working from the outside in. During my rehearsal process the rest of the cast were on holiday, so I was mostly rehearsing with just one understudy. It was a really unusual way to work."

Despite the challenges, Andrea has revelled in learning the classic script and making the character her own.

"I'd studied Ayckbourn and knew Ayckbourn, so it was a real privilege to do this one and it's fabulous. The more you listen to it the more you get out of it."

How the Other Half Loves provides a real snapshot of 60s life, in particular how the role of women in society has changed. The level of chauvinism seems quite unfamiliar now.

Andrea continued: "All the female characters have something expected of them which isn't expected of women any more but the interaction between generations is very timeless."

The plot culminates in two disastrous dinner parties on successive nights, shown at the same time, after which the future of all three couples seems in jeopardy.

"That was probably one of the most complicated scenes and probably the least I got to rehearse with all the characters, so it was very nerve racking," Andrea said.

The lightning quick pace of the dialogue and movement, help to maintain the momentum and general feeling of mayhem.

The all–star cast are relishing the opportunity of sharing in the glorious mirth making of the acclaimed writer.

"It's really entertaining, engaging, funny, light and beautifully written. It's just silly, which is fantastic. It's silly but very clever."

How the Other Half Loves continues at the Duke of York Theatre.

www.atgtickets.com/shows/how-the-other-half-loves/duke-of-yorks/

Celebrating 40 years of the National Youth Theatre

MATT Lucas, Lily James and Gina Beck are just some of the big name stars set to gather for a special West End Gala night to celebrate 40 years of the National Youth Music Theatre (NYMT).

The star-studded event entitled Encore: 40 Years of NYMT, will be staged at the Adelphi Theatre and feature appearances from both current students and some very famous alumni.

Stars on the bill include comedian Matt Lucas, Gina Beck and darling of the big screen and star of the Disney smash hit live action version of Cinderella, Lily James.

They will be joined by a host of acclaimed performers, including Jason Robert Brown, Lara Pulver, Ben Barnes, Simon Thomas, Gavin Spokes, Stuart Matthew Price, Jasper Britton and Toby Jones.

Jeremy James Taylor, NYMT founder and artistic director (1976 - 2005) said: "Forty years have raced by. It's been a roller-coaster ride - but they say time flies when you're having fun.

"We may be playing an ENCORE but it's only just the beginning. We look forward to commissioning still more great new musicals and to nurturing the next generation of musical theatre talent."

The NYMT represents the very best in work with young people through musical theatre enabling thousands of youngsters across the UK to develop both their creative and personal potential, leading Andrew Lloyd Webber to dub it "the best youth music theatre in the world".

Since its inception, it has produced over 50 productions at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, premièred 50 new musical theatre works, toured several times outside the United Kingdom, and had runs in the West End and on Broadway.

NYMT's 2016 season will include a tour of John Rutter's The Piper of Hamelin; the world premiere of The Battle of Boat, a new musical by Donnelly & Maltby; Spring Awakening directed by Nikolai Foster at Curve, Leicester, and Brass, the musical by Benjamin Till, to be staged at Hackney Empire.

Encore: 40 years of NYMT is on October 30 at the Adelphi Theatre - http://rutlive.co.uk

NYMT alumni Matt Lucas

Wine&dine

MARK HIX'S RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Partridge tagine with olives

Serves 4-6

There are some game birds I wouldn't use for this, like grouse, snipe or woodcock, but partridge and pheasant lend themselves well to a bit of spice and slow cooking. It's also a good way to use up frozen birds.

Ingredients
4 partridges, each cut into 4 pieces
1tbsp flour
4tbsp olive oil
3 medium red onions, peeled and sliced
6 cloves of garlic, peeled and crushed
30g root ginger, peeled and finely grated
1tsp paprika
1tsp ground mace
2tsp ground cumin
1tsp ground cinnamon
1tsp ground cardamom
A good pinch of saffron strands
2tsp tomato purée
1½ litres chicken stock
30 green olives whole or stoned
100-150g raw couscous
2 preserved lemons, quartered

Method
Preheat the oven to 180C/gas mark 5. Season and lightly flour the partridge pieces. Heat half the olive oil in a heavy frying pan and fry them for a couple of minutes on each side, until they are nicely brown. Put to one side.

Meanwhile, in a saucepan with a lid, gently cook the onions in the rest of the olive oil with all the spices for about 10 minutes, stirring every so often until they are soft and beginning to colour. You may need to add a little water if they are sticking to the bottom.

Add the tomato purée and chicken stock, bring to the boil and season. Simmer for 20 minutes, then add the partridge, olives and preserved lemons. Transfer into a tagine or a covered cooking dish and finish in the oven for 1 hour. You may need to add more stock but a tagine shouldn't have too much liquid.

Delicious partridge tagine with olives

Alfresco dining with an authentic taste of Italy

C'Alice Italian Restaurant, Fulham

WITH the weather finally feeling a bit warmer, an alfresco dining experience with the authentic taste of Italy seems like the perfect way to enjoy an August evening. For a high quality meal at a reasonable price C'Alice on Munster Road in Fulham is a foody paradise, *writes Nicky Sweetland*.

The charming little restaurant is run by a husband and wife team. With a contemporary interior, it offers a unique blend of both Northern and Southern Italian cuisine, with an excellent knowledge of wine and a passion for history of the regions from which the couple hail.

We chose to sit outside the bi-fold doors and enjoy a cocktail (a cool and fresh peach Bellini) in the warmth with some olives and chorizo to start, before we sampled some stunningly prepared antipasti.

We chose Panelle E Crocchè Chickpea flour fritters and potato croquettes (fulsome and filled with flavour, £6) and Salmone Marinato Ai 3 Pepi (three pepper marinated salmon with oil, lemon and celery, which was succulent and tangy, £8.50).

Our main meals were equally as impressive and I sampled a Paccheri pesce spada e melanzane (handmade paccheri pasta with swordfish, aubergines and fresh cherry tomatoes, £14) which was both meaty and mellow. My companion selected a heavenly Arrosto Alla Palermitana (pan fried breaded sirloin steak served with salad and chips, £17), which was perfectly cooked and as a

finale we tried a Crème brûlée and some real Italian gelato, both of which were exquisite.

After a couple of glasses of rosé and an espresso, we were filled with a warm tranquility and an assurance that C'Alioce is a restaurant, which definitely deserves a return visit.

C'Alice is on Munster Road in Fulham. If you would like any further information or to look at the menu, you can visit the website calice restaurant.com/

A contemporary interior and a delicious fusion of Italian regional cookery at C'Alice in Fulham

Classified

Post: London Weekly News, Yeoman House, 63 Croydon Road, Penge, SE20 7TS
Email: candy.brown@slp.co.uk **Telephone:** 0208 768 4919

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Public Notices

Transport for London Notice

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
THE A302 GLA ROAD (GROSVENOR PLACE, CITY OF WESTMINSTER) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2016

1. Transport for London hereby gives notice that it intends to make the above named Traffic Order under section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 for the purpose specified in paragraph 2. The effect of the Order is summarised in paragraph 3.
2. The purpose of the Order is to enable BT works to take place on A302 Grosvenor Place.
3. The effect of the Order will be to prohibit any vehicle from entering or exiting Chapel Street and Chester Street at their junctions with Grosvenor Place.
   The Order will be effective at certain times from 8:00 AM on 5th September 2016 until 6:00 PM on 10th September 2016 or when the works have been completed whichever is the sooner. The prohibition will apply only during such times and to such extent as shall from time to time be indicated by traffic signs.
4. The prohibitions will not apply in respect of:
   (1) any vehicle being used for the purposes of those works or for fire brigade, ambulance or police purposes;
   (2) anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform or a person authorised by Transport for London.
5. At such times as the prohibitions are in force an alternative route will be indicated by traffic signs. [For Chapel Street] via Chester Street. Grosvenor Place, Halkin Street, Belgrave Square onto normal route of travel. [For Chester Street] via Wilton Street, Grosvenor Place, Chapel Street, Upper Belgrave Street onto normal route of travel.

Dated this 16th day of August 2016
Mufu Durowoju
Network Impact Management Team Manager,
Road Space Management - Operations, Transport for London
Palestra, 197 Blackfriars Road, London, SE1 8NJ

MAYOR OF LONDON TRANSPORT FOR LONDON

Transport for London Notice

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
THE A5 GLA ROAD (EDGWARE ROAD, CITY OF WESTMINSTER) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2016

1. Transport for London hereby gives notice that it intends to make the above named Traffic Order under section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 for the purpose specified in paragraph 2. The effect of the Order is summarised in paragraph 3.
2. The purpose of the Order is to enable signal modernisation works to take place on A5 Edgware Road.
3. The effect of the Order will be to prohibit any vehicle from:
   (1) Turning left into Aberdeen Place at its junction with A5 Edgware Road;
   (2) Entering or exiting Bloomfield Road at its junction with A5 Edgware Road:

The Order also suspends the one way operation on Aberdeen place to make it two way operational;
The Order will be effective at certain times from 12.01 AM on the 5th September 2016 until 11:59PM on the 5th November 2016 or when the works have been completed whichever is the sooner. The prohibition will apply only during such times and to such extent as shall from time to time be indicated by traffic signs.

4. The prohibitions will not apply in respect of:
   (1) any vehicle being used for the purposes of those works or for fire brigade, ambulance or police purposes;
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   At such times as the prohibition is in force an alternative route will be indicated by traffic signs via **:(for banned left turn into Aberdeen Place from Edgware Road)** Orchardson Street, Lyons Place onto normal route of travel;**(for vehicles wishing to enter Blomfield Road from Edgware Road)** Maida Vale, Clifton Road, Randolph Avenue onto normal route of travel and vice versa.

Dated this 16th day of August 2016
Mufu Durowoju
Network Impact Management Team - Manager,
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LICENSING ACT 2003
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PREMISES LICENCE

NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT **London and Strategic Estates Ltd** has applied to Hammersmith & Fulham Borough Council on 3rd August 2016 for the grant of a premises licence to use the premises at **18 Hammersmith Broadway, London, W6 7AB** for the Provision of Late Night Refreshment from 23:00 to 00:00 Monday to Saturday, and the Sale of Alcohol on Monday to Saturday 10.00 to 00.00 and Sunday 12.00 to 23.00, as more particularly set out in the application.

Any person who wishes to make a representation in relation to this application must give notice in writing to: ***FAO: London Borough Hammersmith & Fulham Licensing Team, PO Box 66532, London, W8 9GJ*** to be received by no later than 5th September 2016 stating the grounds for making said representation.

A record of the application can be inspected on the Council's website www.lbhf.gov.uk, or at the above address during office hours.

It is an offence, under section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003, to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in or in connection with an application for a premises licence and the maximum fine on being convicted of such an offence is £5,000.

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PADMA NAIDOO (DECEASED)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 27 of the Trustee Act 1925 that any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of PATHMAVATHI NAIDOO otherwise known as PADMAVATHI NAIDOO otherwise known as PADMA NAIDOO of 17 Bury Walk, Chelsea, London SW3 6QD, who died on the 30th January 2016 and whose Will dated 30th November 1987 appointed Renganaygi Ramsamy Executor thereof are required to send particulars in writing of their claims or interests to the undersigned by the 20th October 2016 after which the Executor will distribute the Estate among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interest of which they have had notice.

Dated 18th August 2016
Fladgate LLP
16 Great Queen Street
London, WC2B 5DG
Solicitor of the Executors
Ref: JM/30312/0001

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1)

(OLD OAK COMMON LANE)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate utility works to be carried out in the above named road, it made an Order the effect of which prohibits vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle travelling in a northerly direction on Old Oak Common Lane to turn in an easterly direction onto Du Cane Road.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Old Oak Common Lane, Foliot Road and Fitzneal Street.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order will come into operation on the 22nd August 2016 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works are expected to commence on Monday 22nd August 2016 and last for 3 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 9th day of August 2016.
Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

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Public Notices

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Box numbers alone are not available for use in "trade" advertisements, other than Employment and Business Opportunities.

Holiday & Travel Category

All advertising must contain the name of the advertiser, phone number alone are not permitted.

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CLAIRE EVELYN GORDON
Previous name: Claire Gordon
(Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of 12B NORTH ROW, LONDON W1K 7DF Previous address: VILLA SO2, KAFR-EL GOUNA, RED SEA, EGYPT, who died on 13/04/2015, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 17/10/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Nicola Elizabeth Anthony, The Estate of Claire Evelyn Gordon Deceased, care of, POB 35547, London, England NW4 3WH

MILDRED BOLSOM
Maiden name: Mautner
(Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of FLAT 58, MELBURY COURT, LONDON W8 6NJ, who died on 06/09/2016, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 19/10/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Susan London Bolsom-Morris,
3 ST MARKS CRESCENT,
LONDON NW1 7TS

To advertise in this, section please call 020 8768 4912

Transport for London Notice

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

THE GLA ROADS AND GLA SIDE ROADS (WESTMINSTER) RED ROUTE CONSOLIDATION TRAFFIC ORDER 2008 VARIATION ORDER (NO.2) 2016
THE GLA ROADS AND GLA SIDE ROADS (ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA) RED ROUTE CONSOLIDATION TRAFFIC ORDER 2008 A3220 GLA ROAD (HOLLAND ROAD) VARIATION ORDER 2016
THE GLA ROAD AND SIDE ROADS (LAMBETH) RED ROUTE CONSOLIDATION TRAFFIC ORDER 2007 A3036 GLA ROAD (ALBERT EMBANKMENT) VARIATION ORDER 2016
THE GLA ROADS AND GLA SIDE ROADS (SOUTHWARK) RED ROUTE CONSOLIDATION TRAFFIC ORDER 2007 A3200 GLA ROAD (SOUTHWARK STREET) VARIATION ORDER 2016

1. Transport for London, hereby gives notice that it intends to make the above named Orders under section 6 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.
2. The general nature and effect of the Orders will be to:
   i. Amend the hours of operation of the bus parking bays:
      a) Outside No. 60 St John`s Wood Road, from 20 mins to 1 hour, no return in 2 hours
      b) Opposite Nos. 2-42 St John`s Wood Road, from 20 mins to 1 hour, no return in 2 hours
      c) On Park Lane, outside No. 22 Park Lane (Hilton Hotel), from 20 mins to 1 hour, no return in 2 hours
      d) Outside No. 90 Park Lane, from 20 mins to 1 hour, no return in 2 hours
      e) Outside Inter-Continental Hotel, on Park Lane roundabout, from 20 mins to 1 hour, no return in 2 hours
      f) On Holland Road, at the side of Nos.368-378 Kensington High Street, from 20 mins to 1 hour, no return in 2 hours
      g) Opposite Nos. 18-26 Albert Embankment, from 20 mins to 1 hour, no return in 2 hours
      h) Outside No. 61 Southwark Street, from 20 mins to 1 hour, no return in 2 hours
      i) Outside No. 89 Southwark Street, from 20 mins to 1 hour, no return in 2 hours
      j) Outside No.101 Southwark Street, from 20 mins to 1 hour, no return in 2 hours
   ii. Increase the size of the existing 15 metre Bus Stand opposite Nos. 2 - 42 Lords View by 30 metres north - eastwards.
3. The roads which would be affected by the Orders are A4202 Park Lane, A5205 St John`s Wood Road in the City of Westminster, A3036 Albert Embankment in the London Borough of Lambeth, A3220 Holland Road in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and A3200 in the London Borough of Southwark.
4. A copy of the Order, a statement of Transport for London's reasons for the proposals, a map indicating the location and effect of the Order and copies of any Order revoked, suspended or varied by the Order can be inspected during normal office hours at the offices of:

Transport for London
Streets Traffic Order Team
(RSM/PI/STOT)
Palestra, 197 Blackfriars Road
London, SE1 8NJ

City Commissioner of
Transportation
City of Westminster
City Hall
11th Floor North West
64 Victoria Street
London SW1E 6QP

Director for Transport and
Highways
Transport and Highways
Royal Borough of Kensington
& Chelsea
Room 114
Council Offices
37 Pembroke Road
London W8 6PW

Director for Transport and
Highways
Transport and Highways
Royal Borough of Kensington &
Chelsea
Room 114
Council Offices
37 Pembroke Road
London W8 6PW

Streetworks Officer
Southwark Council
Third Floor, Hub 1
PO Box 64529
London
SE1P 5LX

5. All objections and other representations to the proposed Order must be made in writing and must specify the grounds on which they are made. Objections and representations must be sent to Transport for London, Streets Traffic Order Team, Palestra, 197 Blackfriars Road, London, SE1 8NJ quoting reference RSM/PI/STOT/TRO, GLA/2016/0362-0365, to arrive before 7th September 2016. Objections and other representations may be communicated to other persons who may be affected.

Dated this 16th day of August 2016
Mufu Durowoju
Network Impact Management Team Manager
Road Space Management - Operations, Transport for London
Palestra, 197 Blackfriars Road, London, SE1 8NJ

MAYOR OF LONDON TRANSPORT FOR LONDON

Transport for London Notice

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

THE A302 GLA ROAD (GROSVENOR PLACE, CITY OF WESTMINSTER) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER (NO.2) 2016

1. Transport for London hereby gives notice that it intends to make the above named Traffic Order under section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 for the purpose specified in paragraph 2. The effect of the Order is summarised in paragraph 3.
2. The purpose of the Order is to enable pedestrian crossing upgrade works to take place on A302 Grosvenor Place.
3. The effect of the Order will be to prohibit any vehicle from entering Grosvenor Crescent at its junction with A302 Grosvenor Place.

The Order will be effective at certain times from 8.00 AM on the 12th September 2016 until the 5.00 PM on the 30th October 2016 or when the works have been completed whichever is the sooner. The prohibition will apply only during such times and to such extent as shall from time to time be indicated by traffic signs.

4. The prohibitions will not apply in respect of:
   (1) any vehicle being used for the purposes of those works or for fire brigade, ambulance or police purposes;
   (2) anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform or a person authorised by Transport for London.

   At such times as the prohibition is in force an alternative route will be indicated by traffic signs via: Knightsbridge, Wilton Place, Wilton Crescent, Wilton Terrace, Belgrave Square onto normal route of travel.

Dated this 16th day of August 2016

Mufu Durowoju
Network Impact Management Team - Manager,
Road Space Management - Operations Transport for London
Palestra, 197 Blackfriars Road, London, SE1 8NJ

MAYOR OF LONDON TRANSPORT FOR LONDON

Transport for London Notice

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

THE A3211 GLA ROAD (VICTORIA EMBANKMENT, CITY OF WESTMINSTER) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC AND STOPPING) ORDER 2016

1. Transport for London hereby gives notice that it intends to make the above named Traffic Order under section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 for the purpose specified in paragraph 2. The effect of the Order is summarised in paragraph 3.
2. The purpose of the Order is to enable works to take place on A3211 Victoria Embankment in the City of Westminster.
3. The effect of the Order will be to prohibit any vehicle from:
   (1) entering, exiting, proceeding and stopping on Victoria Embankment between its junctions with A302 Bridge Street and Horseguards Avenue.
   (2) stopping on A3211 Victoria Embankment between its junctions with Derby Gate and Horseguards Avenue.

   The Order will be effective at certain times from 10.00 PM on the 27th August 2016 until 6.00 AM on the 28th August 2016 and from 10.00 PM on 20th November until 6.00 AM on 21st November 2016 for article 3 (1) and from 10.00 PM on the 27th August 2016 until 6.00 AM on 21st November 2016 for article 3 (2) or when the works have been completed whichever is the sooner. The prohibitions will apply only during such times and to such extent as shall from time to time be indicated by traffic signs.
4. The prohibitions will not apply in respect of:
   (1) any vehicle being used for the purposes of those works or for fire brigade, ambulance or police purposes;
   (2) anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform or a person authorised by Transport for London.
5. At such times as the prohibitions are in force an alternative route will be indicated by traffic signs via **(for westbound traffic wishing to turn right into Victoria Embankment)** Bridge Street, Parliament Square, Parliament St, Whitehall, Horse Guards Avenue to normal route of travel; **(for southbound traffic on Victoria Embankment wishing to proceed to Bridge Street)** Horse Guards Avenue, Whitehall, Parliament St, Bridge St to normal route of travel.

Dated this 16th day of August 2016

Mufu Durowoju
Network Impact Management Team - Manager,
Road Space Management-Operations, Transport for London,
Palestra, 197 Blackfriars Road, London, SE1 8NJ

MAYOR OF LONDON TRANSPORT FOR LONDON

Public Notices

h&f putting residents first

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1)

(ESTCOURT ROAD)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate utility works to be carried out in the above named road, it made an Order the effect of which prohibits vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Estcourt Road between its junctions with Dawes Road and No.178 Estcourt Road.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Dawes Road, Sherbrooke Road and Rylston Road.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order will come into operation on the 22nd August 2016 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works are expected to commence on Monday 22nd 2016 and last for 1 day. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 9th day of August 2016.

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1)

(BLYTHE ROAD)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate utility installation works to be carried out in the above named road, it made an Order the effect of which prohibits vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle proceeding in a southerly direction on Blythe Road to turn in an easterly direction onto Hammersmith Road.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would not be provided.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order will come into operation on the 22nd August 2016 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works are expected to commence on Monday 22nd August 2016 and last for 5 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 9th day of July 2016.

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1)

(MENDORA ROAD)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate utility repair works to be carried out in the above named road, it made an Order the effect of which prohibits vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Mendora Road between its junctions with Pellant Road and No. 60 Mendora Road.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Pellant Road, Prothero Road and Rylston Road.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order will come into operation on the 22nd August 2016 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works are expected to commence on Monday 22nd August 2016 and last for 1 day. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 9th day of August 2016.

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1)

(SHEPHERD'S BUSH GREEN)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate utility inspection works to be carried out in the above named road; it intends to make an Order the effect of which would prohibit certain vehicular manoeuvres in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed in a northerly direction, at the junction of the southwest to southeast and the south to north arms of Shepherd's Bush Green.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Shepherd's Bush Road and the Hammersmith Broadway one way system.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order would come into operation on the 8th September 2016 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works would be expected to commence on Thursday 8th September 2016 and last for 1 day. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 9th day of August 2016.

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1)

(WATERFORD ROAD)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate crane operations to be carried out in the above named road, it made an Order the effect of which prohibits vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in the southbound section of Waterford Road between its junctions with King's Road and No. 77 Waterford Road.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Moore Park Road, Brittania Road and King Road.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order will come into operation on the 22nd August 2016 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works are expected to commence on Monday 22nd August 2016 and last for 11 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 9th day of August 2016.

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1)

(UXBRIDGE ROAD)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate utility works to be carried out in the above named road, it made an Order the effect of which prohibits vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Bloemfontein Road between its junctions with Uxbridge Road and its junction with Bloemfontein Avenue.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Shepherds Bush Green, West Cross Route and the Westway.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order will come into operation on the 22nd August 2016 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works are expected to commence on Monday 22nd August 2016 and last for 3 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 9th day of August 2016.

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

Local Planning Applications
London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

h&f putting residents first

Local Planning Applications
London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990
I give notice that applications have been made to the Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham as follows:
FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE CHARACTER OR APPEARANCE OF A CONSERVATION AREA
2 Ellaline Road London W6 9NZ 2016/03423/FUL
Erection of a rear roof extension involving an increase in the ridge height; erection of a part one, part two storey rear extension at ground and first floor level; erection of a single storey rear extension to the side of the extended back addition; excavation of the front and rear garden to form lightwells in connection with the creation of a new basement; alterations to the front boundary wall, brick piers and entrance gate to the front elevation; installation of a new access gate to the side elevation of the boundary wall.
Flat Basement 99 Chesson Road London W14 9QS
2016/03441/FUL
Alterations to the roof of the basement flat to include the replacement of existing rooflight with a new rooflight and increasing the height of the roof by 140mm.
35 Lysia Street London SW6 6NF
2016/03439/FUL
Erection of a rear roof extension involving an increase in the ridge height by 250mm; erection of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition; erection of a part one, part two storey rear extension at ground and first floor level; erection of a single storey rear extension to the side of the extended back addition; installation of 2no rooflights in the front roofslope; replacement of 1no window with a new window to the side of rear back addition at first floor level; conversion of the existing building into 1 x two bedroom and 1 x three bedroom self-contained flats.
30 Burnfoot Avenue London SW6 5EA
2016/03514/FR3
Replacement of all existing white aluminium casement windows to the front and rear elevations with white PVCu double glazed windows.
58 New King's Road London SW6 4LS
2016/03485/FUL
Erection of a rear roof extension; erection of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition, including erection of a 1700mm high obscured glazed screen around the remainder of the flat roof at second floor level in connection with its use as a roof terrace; installation of a window in the rear elevation of the back addition at first floor level.

57 Bradbourne Street London SW6 3TF
2016/03567/VAR
Variation of wording of conditions 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 And 19 of planning permission ref: 2016/02495/FUL granted 28th July 2016 from 'No development shall commence' to 'No below ground development shall commence.'
97 Talgarth Road London W14 9DJ
2016/03504/FR3
Replacement of all existing timber windows and doors to the front elevation with double-glazed windows and doors; and replacement of all existing timber windows and doors to the rear elevation with double-glazed PVCu windows and doors.
782 Fulham Road London SW6 5SL
2016/03526/VAR
Removal of condition 6 (construction logistics) and variation of condition 10 (parking permit scheme) of planning permission ref: 2016/01944/FUL granted 16th June 2016 to allow the occupiers of the upper floor flats to apply for street parking permit.
84 Fulham Palace Road London W6 9PL
2016/03329/FUL
Erection of a two storey rear extension, to the side of the existing back addition at basement and ground floor levels in connection with the change of use of the basement and rear part of the ground floor from Class (A1) retail to a two bedroom self-contained residential unit Class (C3).
133 - 135 King Street London W6 9JG
2016/03479/FUL
Installation of a new shopfront.
133 - 135 King Street London W6 9JG
2016/03480/ADV
Display of an externally illuminated fascia signs; display of an externally illuminated projecting sign; display of two internally illuminated menu boxes on the front elevation.
133 - 135 King Street London W6 9JG
2016/03472/FUL
Erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side of the existing back addition; installation of new extract ducting to rear and side elevations; installation of three air conditioning units on rear elevation and two on the side elevation; installation of one AHU unit on rear elevation.
Flat D Second Floor 36 Overstone Road London W6 0AB
2016/03425/FUL
Erection of a rear roof extension with Juliet balcony, involving an increase in the ridge height by 300mm; installation of three rooflights in the front roofslope.(revised description)
88 - 90 Uxbridge Road London W12 8LR
2016/03523/FUL
Installation of a new shopfront.
15 St Peter's Grove London W6 9AY
2016/02535/FUL
Erection of a rear roof extension; installation of 4no rooflights in the front roofslope (Revised drawings).

Federal House 2 Down Place London W6 9JH2016/03279/FUL
Erection of an additional floor at roof level in connection with the creation of 3 x two bedroom self-contained flats; formation of roof terraces at third floor level; formation of a new lift shaft and lift within the building (Revised address)
7 Lanfrey Place London W14 9PY
2016/03360/FUL
Erection of a single storey rear extension.
80 - 82 Goldhawk Road London W12 8HA
2016/03551/ADV
Display of 1no. internally illuminated fascia sign and 1no. internally illuminated projecting sign on the front elevation; display of 1no. internally illuminated double-sided A1 size LED screen to be positioned inside the building, behind the existing windows to the front elevation.
Flat First Second And Third Floors 30 Aynhoe Road London W14 0QD
2016/03593/FUL
Installation of a new rooflight above the main flat roof at roof level; erection of a new dormer with bi-folding doors, erection of external steps and metal railings around the flat roof at third floor level to the rear elevation, in connection with its use as a terrace; increasing the height of the roof of second floor rear back addition.
The Side Of Stevenage Road London SW6 6PF
2016/03582/FUL
Installation of a 12.5 metre high trance pole with 4 no shrouded antennas together with 1no. Equipment cabinet.
212 Blythe Road And 152 Addison Gardens London W14 0DS
2016/03234/FUL
Demolition and rebuilding of the existing front facade.
Bootsy Brogans 1 Fulham Broadway London SW6 1AA
2016/03501/ADV
Display of a non-illuminated advertisement shroud measuring 9 metres high by 14.18 metres wide on existing scaffolding on the front elevation for a temporary period of two months between 12th September and 12th November 2016.
58 Bishop's Road London SW6 7AH
2016/03518/FUL
Excavation of front garden and part of rear garden to form lightwells, in connection with the creation of the basement.
2 Vanston Place London SW6 1AY
2016/03332/FUL
Erection of fixed glazed screening with retractable awnings around the flat roof at roof level.
Bus Shelter Outside 30 - 32 Fulham High Street London
2016/03509/ADV
Display of a freestanding double-sided internally illuminated digital screen on the public highway measuring 2.37m (height) x 1.34m (width) x 0.35m (depth).
FOR CONSERVATION AREA CONSENT (DEMOLITION WORK) FOR LISTED BUILDING CONSENT

Sacred Heart High School 212 Hammersmith Road London W6 7DG
2016/03364/LBC
Internal refurbishment works in the Stuart building at Sacred Heart High School including the installation of new internal walls and doors followed by the demolition of the existing wall in between office space 2 and 3 at mezzanine floor level; installation of new guarding bars to 2no windows at mezzanine floor level; associated internal alterations.
Access Self Storage 184 Shepherd's Bush Road London W6 7NL
2016/03550/LBC
Retrospective listed building consent application; relating to the installation of sliding doors to the main entrance; on the front (east) elevation of the listed building.
FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE SETTING OR CONTEXT OF A LISTED BUILDING
Flat Basement 36 Ellingham Road London W12 9PR
2016/03534/FUL
Erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side and rear of the existing back addition; erection of a single storey extension to the side of the main building behind the front boundary wall at lower ground floor level; installation of a new window to the side elevation at lower ground floor level (Retrospective).
Bootsy Brogans 1 Fulham Broadway London SW6 1AA
2016/03501/ADV
Display of a non-illuminated advertisement shroud measuring 9 metres high by 14.18 metres wide on existing scaffolding on the front elevation for a temporary period of two months between 12th September and 12th November 2016.
2 Vanston Place London SW6 1AY
2016/03332/FUL
Erection of fixed glazed screening with retractable awnings around the flat roof at roof level.
Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by 6th September 2016. See below for ways of commenting on applications.
THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 2013 NOTICES UNDER REGULATION 13
104 Goldhawk Road London W12 8HD
2016/03478/FUL
I give notice that Mr Diego H Alfonso Celis is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Use of part of the front pavement for the placing of 8no tables, 16no chairs and free standing canvas barriers along Titmuss Street and Goldhawk Road elevation.
132 Askew Road London W12 9BP
2016/03379/FUL
I give notice that Aron Cool is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Removal of part of the front boundary wall in connection with the formation of a vehicle crossover.
6 Lillie Yard London SW6 1UB
2016/03516/FUL
I give notice that Throgmorton Investments Ltd is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Demolition of the existing building and erection of a four storey building for redevelopment of the site to comprise a mix of uses to provide office accommodation (Class B1) and creation of 1 x 1 bedroom and 1 x 3 bedroom self-contained residential units (Class C3).
Bannon Court Michael Road London SW6 2EF
2016/03451/FUL
I give notice that Goldcrest Land PLC is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Demolition of the existing building and redevelopment of the site to provide a six storey building comprising of 359sq.m of commercial floorspace at basement and ground floor and 15 x residential units from first to fifth floor level, including car and cycle parking and associated landscaping. The proposal constitutes a major development.
Bannon Court Michael Road London SW6 2EF
2016/03452/FUL
I give notice that Goldcrest Land Plc is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Demolition of the existing building and redevelopment of the site to provide a nine storey building comprising of 359sq.m of commercial floorspace at basement and ground floor level and 20 x residential units from first to eight floor levels, including car and cycle parking and associated landscaping. The proposal constitutes a major development.
Marvic House Bishop's Road London SW6 7AD
2016/03489/FUL
I give notice that Glasshouse Properties Ltd is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Erection of an additional floor at roof level in connection with the creation of a 1 x two bedroom self-contained flat; erection of a two storey extension at first and second floor level, formation of a roof terrace at third floor level and installation of a new shopfront fronting Bishop's Road elevation; alterations to the external fenestration of the building.
845 - 847 Harrow Road London NW10 5NH
2016/03545/VAR
I give notice that Mr Shailesh Morjaria is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Variation of Condition 02 Planning Permission 2015/01063/FUL granted 18/03/2015 for the 'Demolition of the single storey buildings to rear, erection of a two storey replacement building with central courtyard, erection of two dormer extensions with French doors to rear roofslope of the frontage building to new roof terraces; change of use of the site from light industrial (B1(c)) to nine self-contained (C3) residential units and three commercial (B1) units', amendment to include the demolition of the Harrow Road elevation and building of new to match existing as described on revised drawing P-103 REV C.
Kings Court Mansions 739 Fulham Road London SW6 5UL
2016/03600/FUL
I give notice that Gail's Ltd is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Continued use of part of the public highway for the placing of 5.no benches and 15.no tables and associated decking along Epple Road elevation between 07:00 and 20:00 hours.
Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by **6th September 2016**. See below for ways of commenting on applications.
Signed: **NIGEL PALLACE**
Executive Director for Transport and Technical Services
on behalf of HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL
You can view applications, make comments and monitor their progress on our website: www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning. Click on the 'Planning Online' logo on the Planning Home Page.
You can also E-mail comments to: plancomments@lbhf.gov.uk
You can also inspect details of applications using computers at our office **RECEPTION FIRST FLOOR HAMMERSMITH TOWN HALL EXTENSION KING STREET W6** between 9.00am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays.
If you want to make comments on applications please E-mail them through our website or post them to **DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SERVICE ENVIRONMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT TOWN HALL KING STREET W6 9JU** by the date shown above. Please include the application reference number and the name of the planning officer. We will try to consider any representations received after the date indicated but this cannot be guaranteed so please reply promptly. For initial enquiries call our information and reception service on **020 8753 1081 or 020 8753 1082**.

lbhf.gov.uk/planning Online
Send us your comments about planning applications via our website: **www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning**

Email your sports news, reports and pictures to Tony McDonald at **sport@londonweeklynews.co.uk**

LONDON WEEKLY NEWS sport

Rangers first to grab top spot

IF only the league season would end today. Two consecutive wins in the Championship, with five goals scored and none conceded, left Queens Park Rangers looking down on the rest of the second tier from top spot ahead of this Wednesday's (Aug 17) visit to Barnsley.

And there was satisfaction, too, in a midweek penalty shootout victory against Swindon Town in the League Cup – the competition Rangers won in such glorious fashion almost 50 years ago – to complement their impressive league victories over Leeds United and Cardiff City.

Confused R's fans are pinching themselves. They are in nosebleed territory, bracing themselves for when the wheels come off.

Or is there now genuine cause for optimism that a play-off place is a realistic possibility after all? It's far too early to make such bold assumptions, so I'll continue to reserve judgement until at least six matches have been played and a pattern develops in this most unpredictable of leagues.

Understandably, manager Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink is urging caution amid the mini euphoria sweeping Shepherd's Bush. After second half goals by Steve Caulker and Tjaronn Chery gave his side a well deserved 2-0 victory at Cardiff on Sunday, he said: "We're not getting carried away, far from it. It's nice to be where we are but that is not our focus.

"Our focus is to keep improving, keep being competitive and keep focusing on the next game."

But Hasselbaink wouldn't deny his team the credit they deserved.

"It's a pleasure working with these players every day," he added. "It was a really strong away performance. We played very, very well. Defensively, it was flawless.

Very happy

"Offensively, we could impose ourselves better at times and be even more dominant than we were but, overall, I am very happy.

"Three points away from home is what we came here for – and it was what we deserved."

Caulker opened the scoring 14 minutes from time against his former club with a superb towering header, before Dutchman Chery put the icing on the cake in the 85th minute, with a coolly-taken spot-kick.

LOFTUS ROAD RANGERS REVIEW
With Tony McDonald

"The key was to stay patient," said Hasselbaink. "We kept working, we kept knocking on the door and eventually we got the breakthrough our performance deserved.

"I'm being picky if I find many faults. As a team, as a unit, we were excellent – and that is a platform we can work from going forward."

On goalscorer Caulker, who again shone at the heart of a QPR defence who have yet to concede a shot on target in the league, he added: "Steven was exceptional – but he was part of a very good performance.

"He is a leader, he is respected by his team-mates and he showed again today he's a very good player.

"It was a great header and gave us a lift to go on and win the game."

After their trek to South Yorkshire to play Barnsley, Hoops head back to W12 on Saturday when they meet early strugglers Preston North End, who were beaten 2-1 at home by Fulham on Saturday.

There is more action at Loftus Road next Tuesday (Aug 23), when revitalised R's fans will expect to see their favourites progress against Rochdale in the League Cup second round.

■ NEDUM Onuoha closes down Swindon's Luke Norris in R's League Cup tie that was decided on penalties Pic: Rob Noyes/Digital South

■ WIN double: Fulham's two scorers, Dennis Adeniran (left) and two-goal Cauley Woodrow enjoying last week's League Cup win at Leyton Orient Pic: Rob Noyes/Digital South

BETTIN£ BANTER

■ **FULHAM were one of the best bets to progress from the first round of the League Cup.**

Despite beating title favourites Newcastle in their first Championship outing of the season, Whites were an appealing 11/10 against to win at Leyton Orient last week and did so with a 3-2 victory over the fourth tier strugglers that was more comfortable than the result suggests. O's salvaged respectability with two late goals.

You could have got an even bigger 12/5 on Whites to win at Preston, while QPR were slightly shorter 9/4 shots to succeed at Cardiff.

The bookies have reacted quickly to our local teams' unbeaten start in the Championship. Before this week's games, Fulham and QPR were both quoted at 30/1 to win the second tier, their pre-season odds slashed from 50/1 and 40/1 respectively.

A home draw against League Two Rochdale in the next round of the League Cup has also seen R's odds against winning the trophy cut from 250-1 to 200/1 – the same price as Fulham, who face what looks a far tricker tie at home to Middlesbrough.

Wrecked

Hoops needed a penalty shootout to see off Swindon at Loftus Road and their failure to do the business in normal time wrecked my fourfold accumulator, which also included Fulham. It was a schoolboy error – I should've cashed out when Rangers took the lead on the hour, instead of trusting them to hold on for 90 minutes.

Now that the Premier League is underway, attention turns to Chelsea (this was written prior to Monday's first game against West Ham).

I'm backing Pep Guardiola to lead Manchester City to the title at the first attempt but I also rate Antonio Conte highly and can see Blues pushing them all the way. Unlike City, Chelsea won't be distracted by European football and should be hard to beat.

Before facing West Ham, Blues were 11/2 third favourites behind City (23/10) and Man United (3/1), who both won their opening matches.

Good luck and please bet responsibly.

Tony McDonald

Championship in sight

● COUNTY CRICKET ROUND-UP

■ **MIDDLESEX are fully focused on winning the Specsavers County Championship after their defeat by Northamptonshire in the NatWest T20 Blast quarter-final.**

Despite winning the toss and electing to bat, Middlesex never really recovered from losing both Dawid Malan and Paul Stirling inside the first two overs and eventually lost by seven wickets at Northampton.

George Bailey top-scored with 46 but the visitors, who had made it out of their group for the first time in eight years, reached just 132-7 at the end of their 20 overs.

Adam Rossington struck 67 not out as Northants clinched their place at finals day with 11 balls remaining.

But while dreams of the treble have crumbled, at least Middlesex still have the first division title clearly in sight.

As LWN went to press they were poised to stretch their lead at the top of CC1 with victory over Durham at Lord's, where centuries for the two Nicks, Gubbins (145) and Compton (131), had put the home side in complete command at the end of day two (Sunday).

Having bowled out Durham in their first innings for 204, Middlesex had rattled along to 408-6 in the weekend sunshine at the Home of Cricket.

■ **IT was Surrey who pipped Middlesex to a quarter-final berth in the Royal London One-Day Cup and the Browncaps will be hoping to progress to the last four of the 50-over competition when they face Northants at Northampton this Thursday (Aug 18 at 1.30pm).**

Although currently struggling in seventh place in Division Two of the Championship, Northants proved their limited overs credentials by topping the northern ODC group and, as reported above, knocked Middlesex out of the T20 comp.

Conte: 'we're ready for the fight'

■ **CHELSEA: Continued from back page**

will help him. It's important if you want to win to have talented players, but it's important also to create the right spirit.

"Expectations for every team are very high," continued Conte. "After a bad season like last year we are working very hard to be ready to start. We know this season will be very tough for every team in every game.

"I think last season was bad for all the players, not just one, two or three. It's important we don't forget last season, because if we remember it we have more strength. But now we have to think about the present and build a good future for Chelsea, for our fans and the club.

"There are many great clubs who can fight to win the title, fantastic players with great talent. There are also good managers. It will be a great battle and I'm excited. My players are also excited. We have a good situation to fight with the others and we're ready."

■ **ONE ex-player confident that Blues can return to glory is Frank Lampard.**

Chelsea's all-time leading scorer is plying his trade in the USA for New York City and has been banging in the goals for the MLS side.

But the 38-year-old still keeps up to speed with goings-on in SW6, where he proved himself one of the most outstanding midfielders of his generation in a glittering career spanning 13 years that brought him 211 goals in 648 appearances.

"Being at Chelsea for such a long time I have an allegiance, so I would obviously like them to win the league and I think they'll be back challenging.

"I do fancy it being between Chelsea and Manchester City this year. I spoke to Andrea Pirlo about Antonio Conte and he had nothing but great things to say.

"He works the lads very hard in training with his fitness work and organisation on the pitch. The players will need to buy into that and respect that, and then you'll see an improvement from last year."

■ **ON the youth front, Chelsea have farmed out centre-back Michael, who has gone on loan to German side Eintracht Frankfurt. Also expected to move out is 20-year-old Brazilian Kenedy, who will join Watford this week.**

The U23 development side began their Premier League 2 season with a creditable 1-1 draw against Sunderland, who conceded an own-goal.

The U18s defeated Fulham 3-2 in their first Premier League fixture of the season on Saturday. A brace from Harvey St Clair and and a goal by Martell Taylor-Crossdale were enough to see off their local rivals.

Manager Jody Morris said: "It's a win but we feel a bit frustrated because we started the game so well and in the first half hour I thought we were excellent. We kept them pinned in their half, were moving the ball quickly and had total control, so to be 2-0 up was just rewards really.

"Yet we ended the half a little shaky and looked quite vulnerable on the counter-attack."

● RUGBY LEAGUE

■ **HAMMERSMITH Hills Hoists secured their place in the Grand Final with a 30-point semi-final victory against Eastern Rhinos in a physical and fast paced encounter on Saturday.**

The deadlock was broken against the run of play, when Eastern's winger ran the length of the pitch after good ball movement straight from a scrum.

Hoists quickly returned fire with a try under the posts by Gerard Arthurs following great support running after a line break 20 metres from Rhinos' line. Their persistent pressure told in the second half and they were able to pull away from their opponents to make the final score 36-6.

Man of the match went to Lynton 'Angry Red' Allen, whose kick returns and ball work in the attacking zone put Hoists on the front foot.

The Grand Final against local rivals Wests Warriors is at Chiswick Rugby Club on Saturday. With Wests primarily made up of players of Kiwi origin and Hoists fielding mainly Aussies, it's certain to be a fiery encounter, with bragging rights and national pride also coming to the fore.

London Weekly News

SPORT

Tuesday, August 16, 2016 ● SPORTS DESK: 07711 169 427

■ ANTONIO Conte hopes a good start will alleviate some of the pressure Pic: Rob Newell/Digital South

Blues told to increase bids

● By LWN reporter **Paul Lagan**
sport@londonweeklynews.co.uk

ROMELU Lukaku should be a Chelsea player again in a matter of days, with Roman Abramovich looking to part with the thick end of £135million this week.

Well, that's the hope of director of football Michael Emenalo, who is coming under increasing pressure to land the big-name hitman before the transfer window closes on August 31.

Blues are being forced to up their derisory offers for the Everton striker – it's understood that a £42m bid was routinely rejected by the Merseysiders last week.

Chelsea are hoping that a drip, drip increase will see the Toffeemen relent and let the Belgium forward leave Goodison Park for below their £75m valuation.

Lukaku was allegedly unfit for Everton's league opener on Saturday, a 1-1 draw with Spurs, although it is likely that neither they nor Chelsea wanted him to play and risk possible injury, which might have jeopardised the transfer.

To help clear the way for Lukaku, they have allowed Bukino Faso striker Bertrand Traore to join Dutch side Ajax on a year-long loan. His temporary move from SW6 was softened by a new three-year contract at Stamford Bridge. And there is a number nine shirt just waiting for him on his return.

An attempt to firm up a deal to bring Napoli centre-back Kalidou Koulibaly to west London is becoming problematic. Chelsea will have to meet Napoli's valuation of £50m for the Senegal strongman and their current transfer strategy appears to be failing.

Full asking price

Abramovich will have to loosen the purse strings, as selling clubs are fully aware that Chelsea are a wounded animal following last season's disastrous 10th-placed finish. Only by paying the full asking price will Blues nab their men and feel confident that they can compete for major honours this season.

They are also looking to bolster their midfield with a £15m bid for Santos' 19-year-old Thiago Maia, who has been with Brazil at the Rio Olympics.

Chelsea have lost out on Sporting Lisbon's Joao Mario, 23, who looks to be heading to Italy with Inter Milan in a £39m deal.

Ahead of Monday's opening Premier League game against West Ham United, played after LWN went to press, Blues had made just two summer signings in striker Michy Batshuayi and midfielder N'Golo Kante.

Coach Antonio Conte was as diplomatic as his limited English allowed when talking about the club's attempts to improve the squad.

"I speak every day with the club, we have a plan and we know the market is very crazy in different aspects. We must be patient to find the right solution for the team. It's important to improve the squad but right now I'm very happy to work with these players because they've shown me great commitment every day and that is important for me.

"Every single club wants to improve because they want to fight for the title and I think every club adapts its transfer policy to their own ideas. Chelsea is waiting for the right solution but at this moment it's not easy.

"It's a crazy transfer market because when you try to buy a player the cost is very expensive and not the real valuation. It's a very strange situation."

This week at STAMFORD BRIDGE

■ **AFTER facing West Ham at home, Blues now have a tricky away match at Watford to come on Saturday. A good start will allow Conte some time to cement his ideas but defeats will heap instant pressure on the Italian.**

Whatever the result against the Hammers, Conte, like most mangers, will be having trouble sleeping.

He said: "Before the games, usually I don't sleep a lot. I sleep for two, three hours. When I wake up, I start to think about the game, the situation, and often I have a good idea on a tactical aspect in the first hours of the morning."

He revealed: "After the game, when I win I sleep, but when I don't win it's very difficult for me. In the middle of the night I think, 'what is the reason we lost?' Sometimes I watch the match again very quickly because I want to find an answer. 'Why? Where is the situation that creates more difficulties? Which is the player that creates more difficulties? Was our tactical plan good or not good?' I need to have the answers quickly.

Understand

"I have a great wife, a great daughter. They understand me because they know me, my passion, my habit of working a lot and I think my wife knows that now I am here for this reason – for my passion to work, to improve myself, to always put myself in competition. I am lucky because I have a wife and daughter who understand this."

Since entering management in 2006 Conte has led Bari to the Serie B title and guided Juventus to three consecutive Italian scudettos before being appointed national manager. When dealing with his players, he draws on his experience of a distinguished playing career spanning more than 300 games with Juve that earned him 20 full international caps.

He said: "I think that all the players are important to fight to win the title. In my experience, as a player and now as a manager, I have always thought that if every single player is part of the team, probably you have a great possibility to win. If only one player, or two players, are part of the team it is very, very difficult because the team needs all the squad, all the players, who play or don't play in the game. It's important for this reason to create the right spirit in the team if you want to return very soon to fight for a title. I don't think any single player can change that situation.

"Every single player's ready to help his team-mate because he knows in another situation his team-mate

■ Continued on page 23

Focus on Craven Cottage

By TONY McDONALD

Best start for 15 years

THREE victories in eight days gave Fulham the perfect start to the new season ahead of Tuesday's visit to Leeds United.

After stunning title favourites Newcastle United on the opening night at Craven Cottage, Whites won 3-2 in the League Cup at Leyton Orient and recorded their second Championship success of the campaign with a 2-1 win at Preston North End on Saturday.

The fact that it's the first time Fulham have won consecutive league games at the start of the season in 15 years didn't escape the notice of head coach Slaviša Jokanović.

"It's a very good start for us," he admitted. "Fulham haven't won their first two opening (league) games since the 2000-01 season.

"It's an important start for us and I have to be happy with how we played for many minutes in the game but at the same time we've got a very, very long season in front of us.

"We won two games and these points could be important for us in the spring. All I'm focused and thinking about is the next game. It's Leeds away and a new chance for us to fight for three points, and let's try to take this chance."

Sone Aluko gave red-shirted Fulham the lead at Preston in the 33rd minute with a close-range header following a diabolical mix-up in the home defence. Matt Smith, the slayer of Newcastle, hit the target midway through the second half when he slotted the rebound after his first shot was saved. This followed a surging 50-yard run by chief creator Tom Cairney.

Preston pulled a goal back through a Callum Robinson header with 20 minutes left on the clock but their hopes of snatching a late equaliser were dashed when Jermaine Beckford's header from six yards was ruled offside.

After their midweek trip to Leeds, Whites return to SW6 on Saturday to face Cardiff City, before hosting newly-promoted Premier League side Middlesbrough in the second round of the League Cup next Wednesday (Aug 24).

The cup date with Boro could mark the debut of latest signing, the curiously named 25-year-old Jozabed, who was unveiled at The Cottage last Friday after signing a three-year contract following his move from Spanish side Rayo Vallecano for an undisclosed fee.

Midfielder Jozabed – full name Jozabed Sánchez Ruiz – told fulhamfc.com: "I consider myself a technical player. I like to have the ball at my feet and help the team in any way I can. I like to dictate the game and I hope I can do a great job for the fans.

"It is a new league and a new way of playing the game. Having taken part in training and spoken to the gaffer I can see the style we want to play and I think I will fit in.

"I am looking forward to it. I hope to play for Fulham in a similar way to how I did in La Liga, with a high passing rate and quick forward movement."

Jozabed scored 10 goals in 50 league appearances for Rayo since joining them two years ago from second division Real Jaen. However, Rayo paid the price for their natural attacking instincts by suffering relegation at the end of last season.

"I play anywhere in the centre of midfield or slightly forward," he added. "Last year I played in a more attacking role, just behind the striker. It was new for me and I did well, and scored a few goals."

SURREY TAKE DERBY HONOURS – page 23